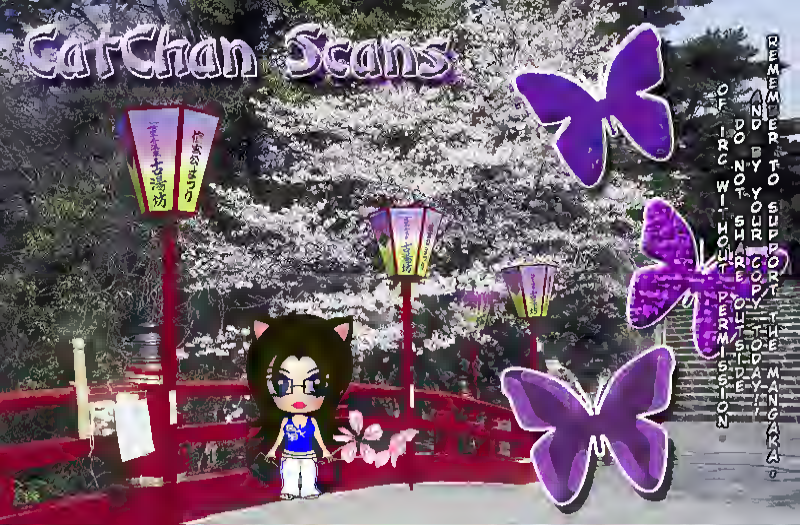
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Made in Heaven™ 2

JURI

ami sakurai • yukari yashiki

TOKYOPOP®

Vol. 2

Written by Ami Sakurai
Illustrated by Yukari Yashiki

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

桜井画廊「MADE IN HEAVEN Juri」(幻冬舎刊)より

Made in Heaven Juri

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WELL, NEXT YEAR YOU'LL PROBABLY BE REALLY BUSY WITH WORK, SO I WANT TO GIVE YOU THIS A LITTLE EARLY.
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S LIKE A CHARM TO KEEP YOU SAFE. I KNOW YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED ONE.
Take it
I KNOW IT'S NOT EVEN CHRISTMAS EVE YET, BUT...
THAT'S RIGHT...
CHRISTMAS WAS ONLY FIVE DAYS AWAY.
I ACTUALLY WANTED TO GET YOU AN AGATE RING, BUT I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY.

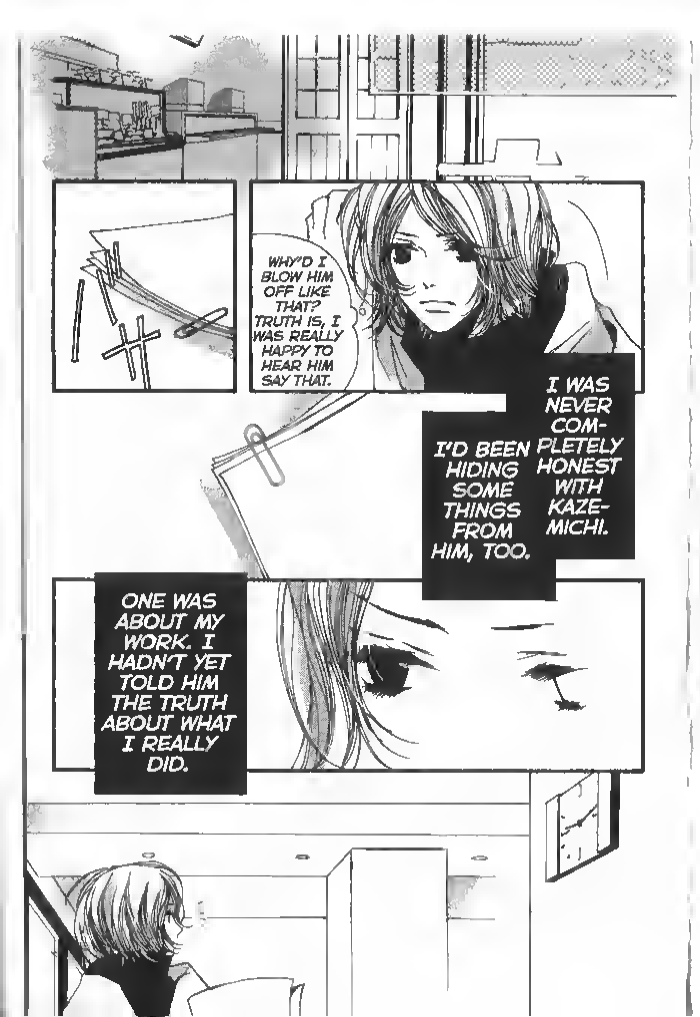
HERE.
FOR ME?

I WAS A 24-YEAR-OLD PSYCHOLOGIST.
THE STONE'S VOICE?
SOMETIMES YOU SOUND LIKE A HEALER, YOU KNOW.
NOT AT ALL.
I'M LISTENING TO THE RAINBOW IN THIS STONE'S VOICE.
THE TWO OF US HAD BEEN LIVING TOGETHER FOR A YEAR AND A HALF.

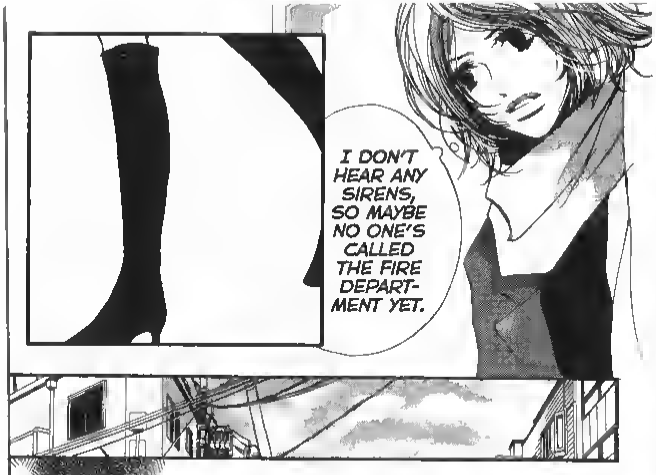
KAZEMICHI...YOU REMEMBERED EXACTLY THE STONE I WANTED.
THANK YOU.
I'LL KEEP IT WITH ME ALWAYS... IN MY BAG.
LABRADORITE...
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
HE WAS A 21-YEAR-OLD COLLEGE STUDENT.
WORK ON YOUR MIND?

AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I LIKED TO TELL MYSELF.
IF HE DIDN'T HAVE SOME-ONE TO PROTECT HIM...
...I WAS SURE HE'D HAVE BEEN BROKEN BY THEN.
HE SEEMED SO CLEAR AND SIMPLE.
KAZE-MICHI...
...SEEMED TO EXIST ON A PLANE... FAR FROM DESIRE, EVIL OR SIN.

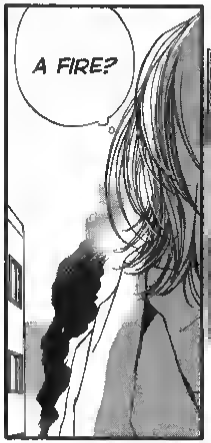
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHY SUCH A SERIOUS FACE?
.....
HELLO ?
?
OKAY, GOT IT.
.....
OH...
I HAVE TO LEAVE RIGHT NOW.
JURI ...
SORRY, BUT SOME-THING'S COME UP.

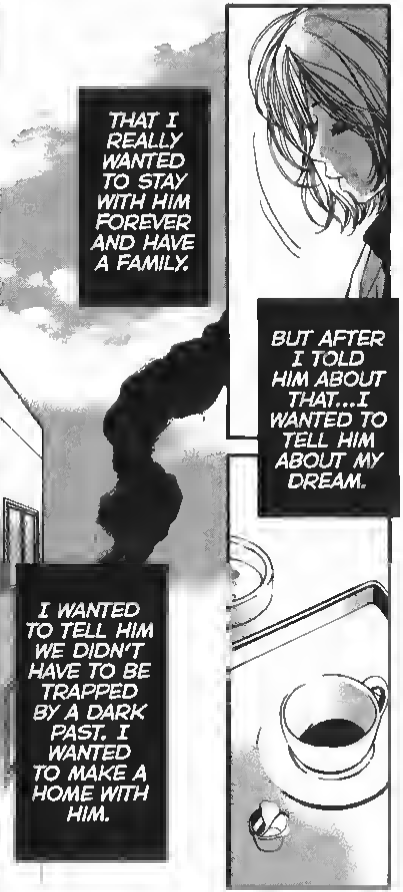

WHY'D I BLOW HIM OFF LIKE THAT? TRUTH IS, I WAS REALLY HAPPY TO HEAR HIM SAY THAT.
I'D BEEN HIDING SOME THINGS FROM HIM, TOO.
I WAS NEVER COMPLETELY HONEST WITH KAZEMICHI.
ONE WAS ABOUT MY WORK. I HADN'T YET TOLD HIM THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT I REALLY DID.

IT'S JUST THAT...
...I'M REALLY, TRULY GLAD THAT WE MET.
SOUNDS LIKE A LINE FROM SOME CHEESY ROMANCE MOVIE.
THAT'S FUNNY.


I DON'T HEAR ANY SIRENS, SO MAYBE NO ONE'S CALLED THE FIRE DEPARTMENT YET.

EXPLOSIVES?


A FIRE?

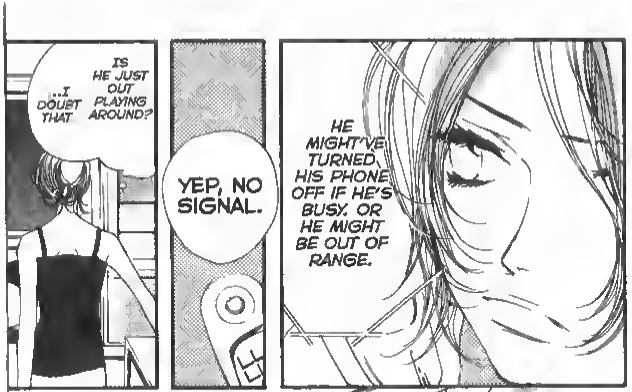

THAT I REALLY WANTED TO STAY WITH HIM FOREVER AND HAVE A FAMILY.
BUT AFTER I TOLD HIM ABOUT THAT...I WANTED TO TELL HIM ABOUT MY DREAM.
I WANTED TO TELL HIM WE DIDN'T HAVE TO BE TRAPPED BY A DARK PAST. I WANTED TO MAKE A HOME WITH HIM.

A PERSON ...?
EITHER WAY, WE FOUND THE SOLE OF THIS SHOE-
AL-THOUGH IT DOES SMELL LIKE A HUMAN WAS INVOLVED.
THE CAUSE OF THE EXPLOSION APPEARS TO BE A FAULTY ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE

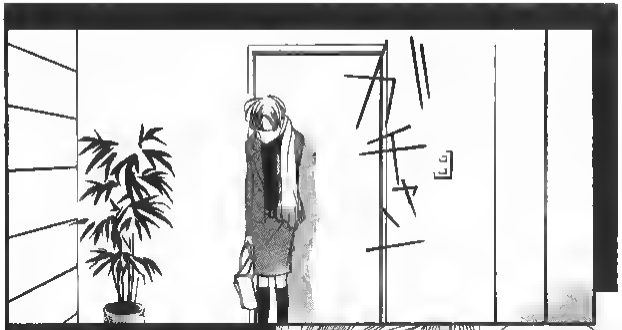
PLEASE SEND AN EXPLO-SIVES-HANDLING TEAM AS WELL.
I CAN'T TELL EXACTLY WHAT'S BURNING, BUT THERE'S A CHANCE IT COULD EXPLODE AGAIN.
Whoa.
THIS IS MITANI FROM THE RESEARCH DEPART-MENT.
I'VE SPOTTED A FIRE ON THE 5500 BLOCK OF KASAI STREET.
EVERYONE, PLEASE STAY BACK! IT MIGHT EXPLODE!
BOOM!

WITH AN EYE-WITNESS, THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE MUCH TROUBLE FIGURING OUT WHAT HAPPENED.

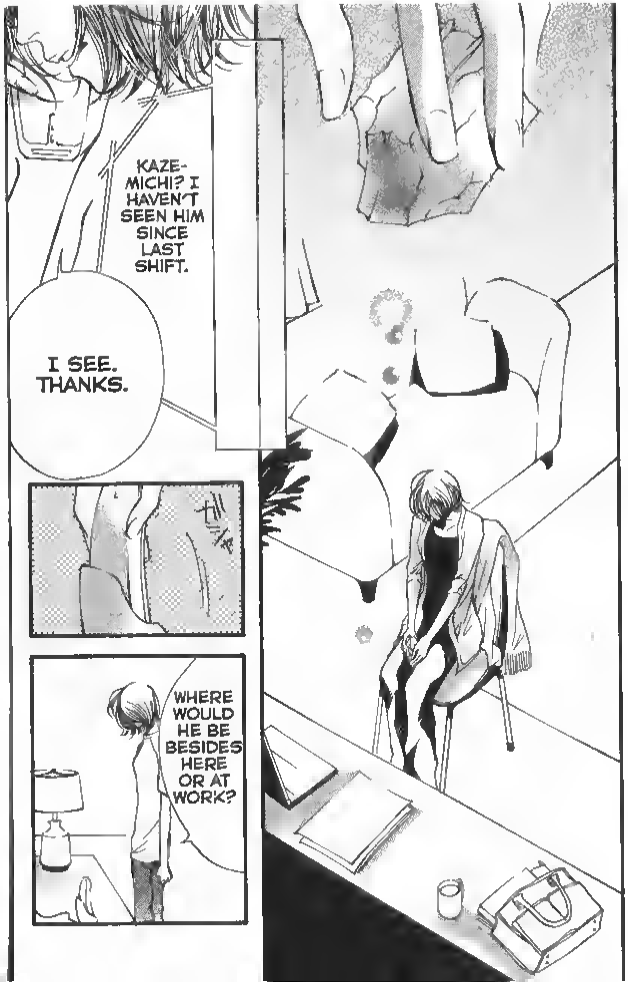
THAT BLAST WAS AWESOME!
JUST BEFORE IT BLEW UP, A GUY WAS WALKING HIS BIKE DOWN THERE.
HEY, I SAW IT ALL FROM MY HOUSE!
I BET THEY WERE FILMING AN EPISODE OF *KAMEN RIDER* OR SOMETHING, HUH?
AN MTB...
Looks a lot like Kasumicho's bike.
OKAY, COME FILE A REPORT...


IS HE JUST OUT PLAYING AROUND?
...I DOUBT THAT.
YEP, NO SIGNAL.
HE MIGHT'VE TURNED HIS PHONE OFF IF HE'S BUSY. OR HE MIGHT BE OUT OF RANGE.

WHY AM I SHAKING LIKE THIS?
I SHOULDN'T BE THIS WORRIED, RIGHT?
.....



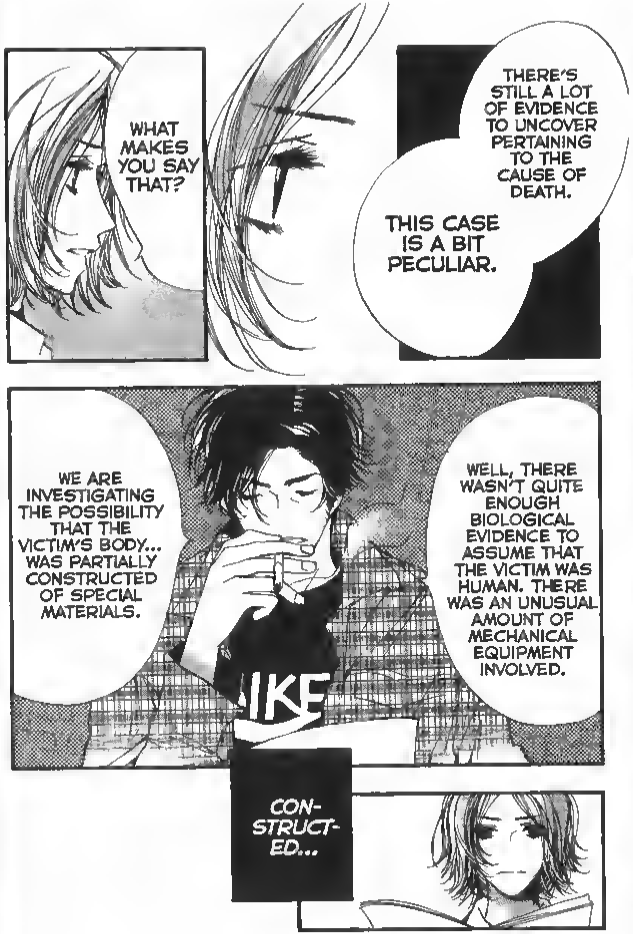
KAZEMICHI ISN'T BACK YET.
WE WERE PLANNING TO HAVE DINNER TOGETHER TONIGHT.


KAZE-MICHI? I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE LAST SHIFT.
I SEE. THANKS.
WHERE WOULD HE BE BESIDES HERE OR AT WORK?

I WAS A PSYCHOLOGIST WITH THE POLICE FORCE...
COME ON, MAYBE HE'S HELPING OUT AT WORK OR SOMETHING.
I NEED A CIGARETTE.
I WASN'T SOME CHILD THAT LET TRIVIAL LOVERS' SPATS INTERFERE WITH THE REST OF HER LIFE.

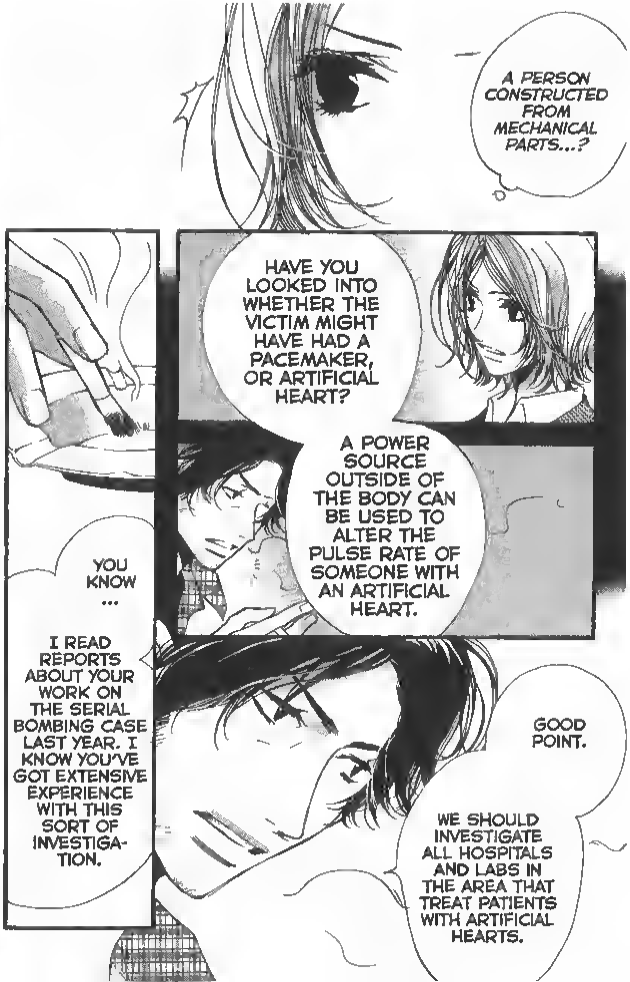
カランコロン
SORRY TO TO CALL SO EARLY IN THE MORNING.
IT'S OKAY.

THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULO HAVE BEEN AT HOME WITH ME.
DID HE GET IN AN ACCIDENT? NO WAY...
NO, I CAN'T...
I'M SORRY.
WE'VE BEEN LIVING TOGETHER FOR MORE THAN A YEAR, BUT...
I CAN'T THINK TOO MUCH ABOUT THIS...I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING FOR SURE.
JUST THIS MORNING YOU INVITED ME TO HAVE A DRINK WITH YOU.
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU'LL BE BACK HOME BY TOMORROW. I KNOW IT.

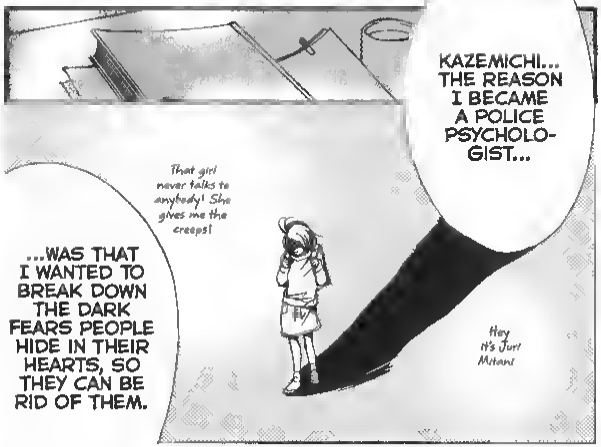

WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?
THERE'S STILL A LOT OF EVIDENCE TO UNCOVER PERTAINING TO THE CAUSE OF DEATH.
THIS CASE IS A BIT PECULIAR.
WE ARE INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE VICTIM'S BODY... WAS PARTIALLY CONSTRUCTED OF SPECIAL MATERIALS.
WELL, THERE WASN'T QUITE ENOUGH BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE TO ASSUME THAT THE VICTIM WAS HUMAN. THERE WAS AN UNUSUAL AMOUNT OF MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT INVOLVED.
CON-STRUCT-ED...

AND I'M CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATOR TSURUMI.
I'LL BE HANDLING THE CASE OF THE INCIDENT YOU WITNESSED YESTERDAY. I'M A POLYGRAPH SPECIALIST. NAME'S KUROZUMI.
AT THE SCENE OF THE INCIDENT, WE FOUND A PIECE OF RUBBER FROM THE SOLE OF A SHOE.
WITNESSES WOULD LEAD US TO BELIEVE IT WAS SIMPLY A SUICIDE, BUT THOSE AREN'T THE ONLY CLUES WE'VE FOUND.
A FRAG-MENT OF A SKULL?
IN THE GROUNDS NEARBY, INVESTIGATORS FOUND WHAT APPEARS TO BE A FRAGMENT OF THE VICTIM'S SKULL, LAUNCHED WHEN THE BLAST OCCURRED.

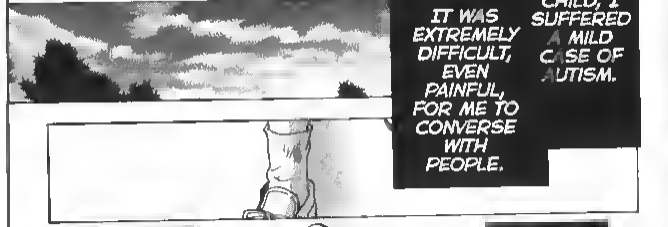
I'VE ALSO HEARD ABOUT YOUR WORK FROM THE OFFICE CHIEF.
I'M SURE I COULD LEARN A LOT FROM WORKING WITH YOU ON THIS CASE.
I'D LIKE YOU TO JOIN ME ON THIS CASE.
OBVIOUSLY I CAN'T COVER EVERYTHING BY MYSELF.
...KAZEMICHI.

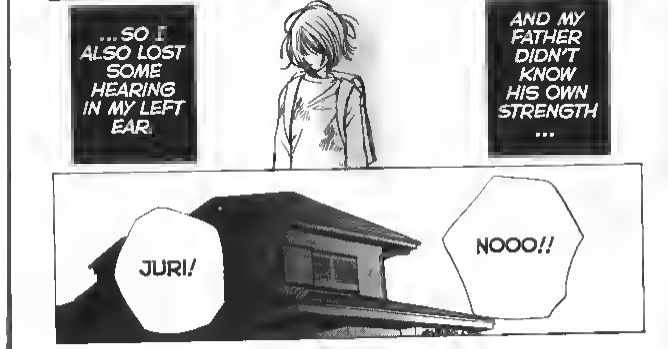

A PERSON CONSTRUCTED FROM MECHANICAL PARTS...?
HAVE YOU LOOKED INTO WHETHER THE VICTIM MIGHT HAVE HAD A PACEMAKER, OR ARTIFICIAL HEART?
A POWER SOURCE OUTSIDE OF THE BODY CAN BE USED TO ALTER THE PULSE RATE OF SOMEONE WITH AN ARTIFICIAL HEART.
YOU KNOW ...
I READ REPORTS ABOUT YOUR WORK ON THE SERIAL BOMBING CASE LAST YEAR. I KNOW YOU'VE GOT EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SORT OF INVESTIGATION.
GOOD POINT.
WE SHOULD INVESTIGATE ALL HOSPITALS AND LABS IN THE AREA THAT TREAT PATIENTS WITH ARTIFICIAL HEARTS.

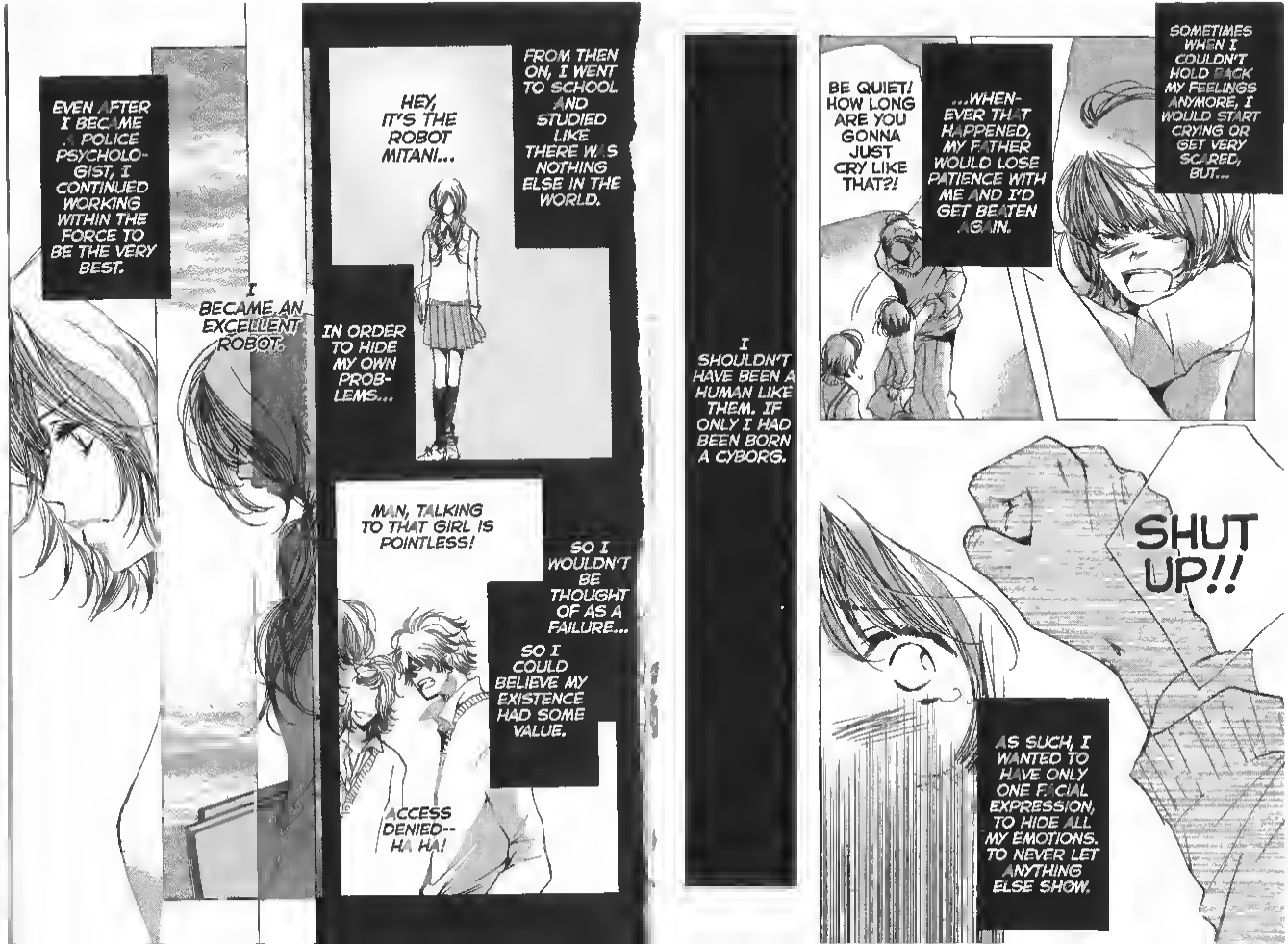
HOW COULD YOU HAVE SPENT AN ENTIRE DAY WITHOUT SAYING EVEN A WORD TO ME?
BECAUSE I'M A WORK-AHOLIC.
WAS IT BECAUSE I WASN'T SWEET ENOUGH TO YOU? BECAUSE I WASN'T A GOOD COOK?

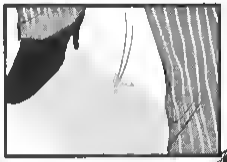

KAZEMICHI... THE REASON I BECAME A POLICE PSYCHOLOGIST...
That girl never talks to anybody! She gives me the creeps!
...WAS THAT I WANTED TO BREAK DOWN THE DARK FEARS PEOPLE HIDE IN THEIR HEARTS, SO THEY CAN BE RID OF THEM.
Hey it's Juri Mitani

SAY SOME-THING!
I KNOW YOU TALK TO YOUR PAR-ENTS.
DON'T JUST STARE BACK LIKE THAT.
COME ON NOW, DON'T BE THAT WAY.


AS A CHILD, I SUFFERED A MILD CASE OF AUTISM.
IT WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, EVEN PAINFUL, FOR ME TO CONVERSE WITH PEOPLE.


...SO I ALSO LOST SOME HEARING IN MY LEFT EAR.
AND MY FATHER DIDN'T KNOW HIS OWN STRENGTH ...
JURI!
NOOO!!


EVEN AFTER I BECAME A POLICE PSYCHOLOGIST, I CONTINUED WORKING WITHIN THE FORCE TO BE THE VERY BEST.
I BECAME AN EXCELLENT ROBOT.
HEY, IT'S THE ROBOT MITANI...
FROM THEN ON, I WENT TO SCHOOL AND STUDIED LIKE THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD.
IN ORDER TO HIDE MY OWN PROBLEMS...
MAN, TALKING TO THAT GIRL IS POINTLESS!
SO I WOULDN'T BE THOUGHT OF AS A FAILURE...
SO I COULD BELIEVE MY EXISTENCE HAD SOME VALUE.
ACCESS DENIED-- HA HA!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN A HUMAN LIKE THEM. IF ONLY I HAD BEEN BORN A CYBORG.
BE QUIET! HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA JUST CRY LIKE THAT?!
...WHENEVER THAT HAPPENED, MY FATHER WOULD LOSE PATIENCE WITH ME AND I'D GET BEATEN AGAIN.
SOMETIMES WHEN I COULDN'T HOLD BACK MY FEELINGS ANYMORE, I WOULD START CRYING OR GET VERY SCARED, BUT...
SHUT UP!!
AS SUCH, I WANTED TO HAVE ONLY ONE FACIAL EXPRESSION, TO HIDE ALL MY EMOTIONS. TO NEVER LET ANYTHING ELSE SHOW.



WHERE ARE YOU?

...I MET KAZEMICHI.

THERE WAS NO WAY IT COULD HAVE BEEN HIM.
DID YOU SEE THE MAN'S FACE?
YES...
I THOUGHT HE WAS RESPECTFULLY BURNING A LOVED ONE'S BELONGINGS IN A BONFIRE
CAN I ASK YOU SOME MORE DETAILS ABOUT WHAT YOU SAW?
IT WAS MOTHER'S MISTAKE. SHE WAS KNITTING AND JUST ABOUT TO TAKE HER DAILY NAP
IT HAD TO BE SOMEONE ELSE.

LADY, ARE YOU HERE TO FIND STUFF OUT ABOUT THAT THING THAT BLEW UP THE OTHER DAY?
HEY, LADY...
REALLY?
THEN TELL IT TO ME INSTEAD
I REMEMBERED SOMETHING THAT I FORGOT TO TELL THE POLICE GUY!
THE GUY WHO WAS STANDING THERE...
HE WAS WEARING A FLUFFY COAT. LIKE MY DAD WEARS WHEN HE GOES SKIING... EXCEPT THIS GUY'S WAS BLACK!

I'LL HAVE BOTH OF YOU TELL ME WHO YOU THINK IT IS SEPARATELY.
I'LL SHOW YOU THESE PHOTOS AND IF YOU RECOGNIZE THE MAN THAT YOU SAW IN THE FIRE TWO DAYS AGO, RAISE YOUR HAND.
NO.
THERE WAS NO CHANCE THAT KAZEMICHI COULD HAVE BEEN ONE OF THEM.
BOTH WITNESSES IDENTIFIED THE SAME PHOTO.
I THINK WE CAN SAFELY SAY THAT THIS MAN IS THE VICTIM.

THAT'S RIGHT. HE HAD VERY FAIR SKIN, AND A HANDSOME FACE.
AND HE WAS PROBABLY ABOUT COLLEGE AGE, YOU SAY?
YES.
SO THE VICTIM WAS...
...ABOUT THE SAME HEIGHT AS ME?
IN JAPAN, ONLY THREE PATIENTS HAVE HAD A WESTERN-STYLE, MAN-MADE ELECTRIC-POWERED HEART APPLIANCE INSTALLED.
TSURUMI IS ON HIS WAY HERE NOW, BRINGING PHOTOS OF THOSE PATIENTS.
RIGHT. GOT IT.
OKAY, THEN.
YOU WERE RIGHT. THE VICTIM HAD AN ARTIFICIAL HEART INSTALLED.
OH...
EXCUSE ME.

KAZEMICHI...?

STATISTICS SHOW THAT THEY ACTUALLY LAST ABOUT FIVE OR SIX YEARS.
SO IF HE'D HAD A MAN-MADE HEART INSTALLED SIX YEARS AGO, IT HAD ABOUT REACHED ITS LIMIT.
WHICH MEANS, EVEN IF HE HADN'T EXPLODED LIKE THAT, HE COULD'VE DIED OF HEART FAILURE AT ANY TIME.
WHY...?

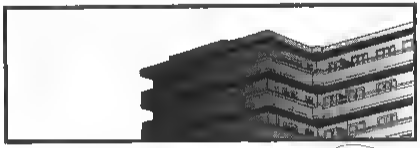
ALL OF THIS...
KAZEMICHI HIMEJIMA'S BELONGINGS ARE ALL EVIDENCE NOW, SO WE'RE TAKING THESE.
UNTIL RECENTLY, AN ARTIFICIAL HEART ORGAN HAS ONLY LASTED ABOUT THREE YEARS, BUT...
...BIOMED CORPORATION TESTIFIES THAT THEY CAN LAST UP TO TEN YEARS.

THAT'S WHY WHENEVER YOU'D SEND ME THOSE FEELINGS...

...I'D NEVER RESPOND TO THEM.

IT'S JUST THAT...I'M REALLY, TRULY GLAD WE MET.

I WAS TOO SCAREO TO SHOW YOU WHAT WAS REALLY IN MY HEART.



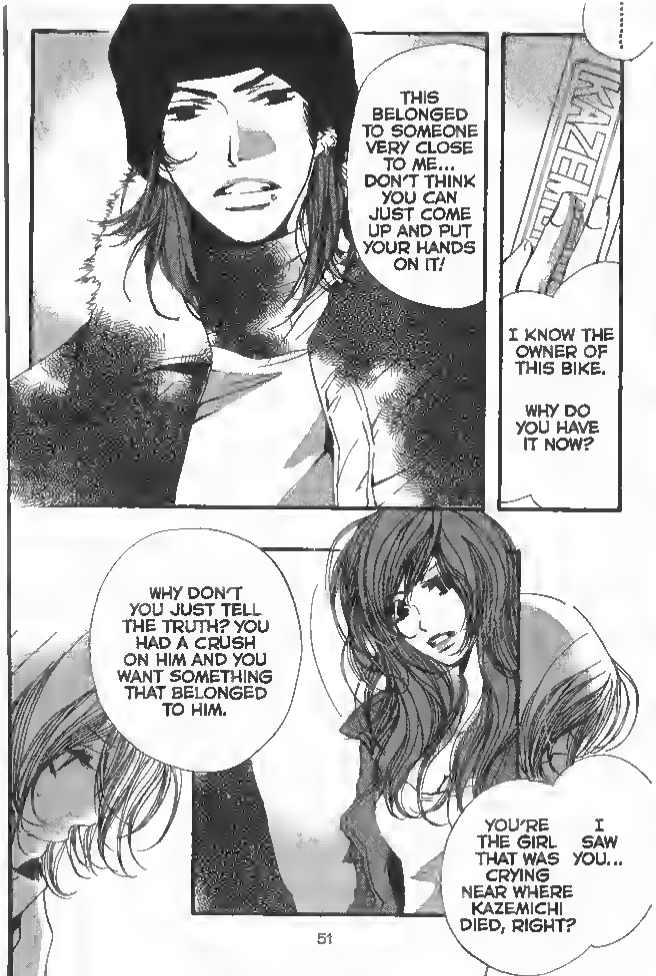
WHY HAD HE TRIED TO HANDLE THIS ALL BY HIMSELF?

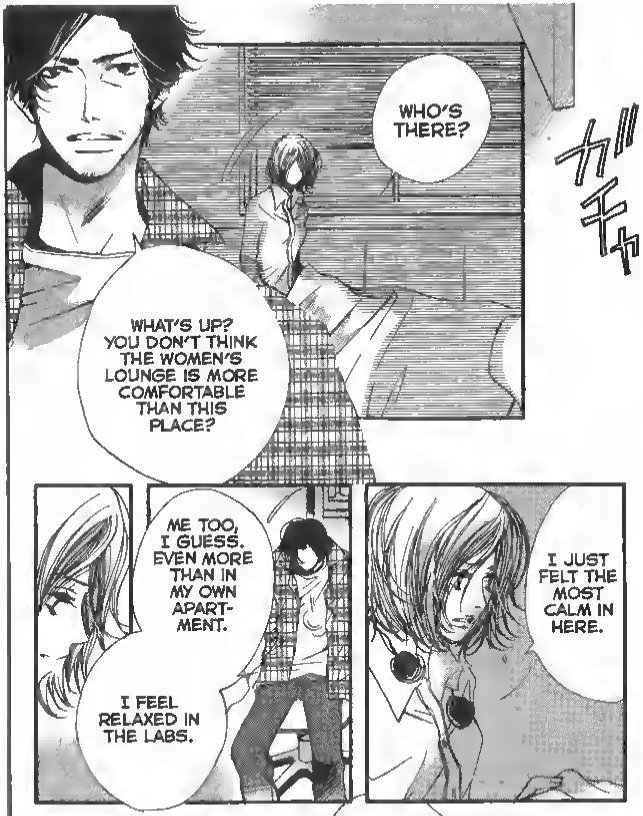
HOW HAD HE EXPECTEO ME TO GO ON LIVING BY MYSELF AFTER THIS?

I'M SORRY.
THE FACT THAT KAZEMICHI DEPENDED ON ME, ON TOP OF MY DUTY AS A POLICE PSYCHOLOGIST...
...WAS THE ONLY THING THAT KEPT ME FROM CRYING, EVEN WHEN I HAD TO COME BACK HOME ALL BY MYSELF.
...OH REALLY?
...YOU DON'T THINK IT'D BE EVEN HARDER TO LET SOMEONE ELSE UNCOVER YOUR LOVER'S MYSTERY?
SURE.
...AL-THOUGH...
FOR THE KASAI HOMICIDE CASE?
YES.
PLEASE ASSIGN SOMEONE ELSE TO THAT CASE NOW.

Uhuuu
Uhh.
Ohhh
Huu huuuu..

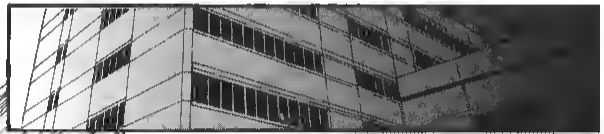
THAT'S THE SAME MODEL AS KAZEMICHI'S.
THIS BIKE...
CAN I TAKE A LOOK AT THE SPLASH-GUARD?
IT'S A NEURO EVOLU-TION, RIGHT?

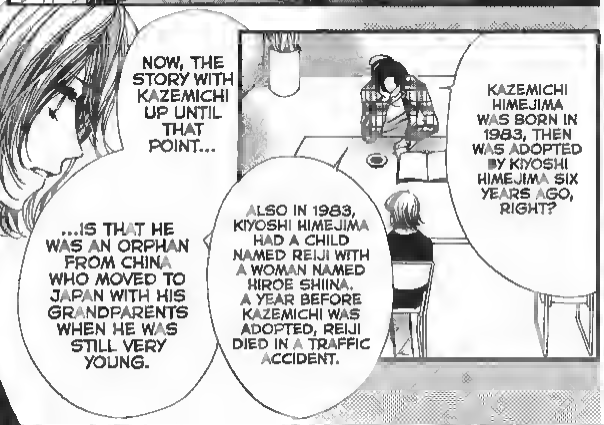

THIS BELONGED TO SOMEONE VERY CLOSE TO ME... DON'T THINK YOU CAN JUST COME UP AND PUT YOUR HANDS ON IT!
I KNOW THE OWNER OF THIS BIKE.
WHY DO YOU HAVE IT NOW?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL THE TRUTH? YOU HAD A CRUSH ON HIM AND YOU WANT SOMETHING THAT BELONGED TO HIM.
YOU'RE THE GIRL THAT WAS CRYING NEAR WHERE KAZEMICHI DIED, RIGHT?
I SAW YOU...

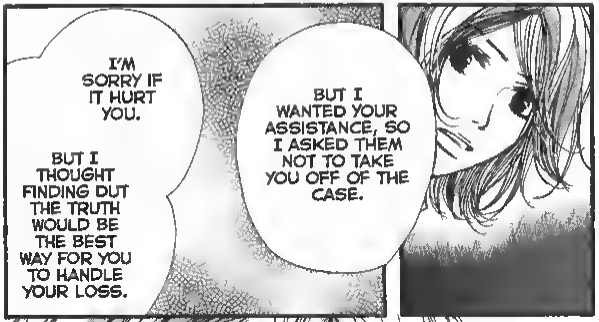

WHO'S THERE?
カチャ
WHAT'S UP? YOU DON'T THINK THE WOMEN'S LOUNGE IS MORE COMFORTABLE THAN THIS PLACE?
ME TOO, I GUESS. EVEN MORE THAN IN MY OWN APART-MENT.
I FEEL RELAXED IN THE LABS.
I JUST FELT THE MOST CALM IN HERE.
...THAT YOU WERE IN LOVE WITH KAZEMICHI HIMEJIMA.
I HEARD FROM THE OFFICE...

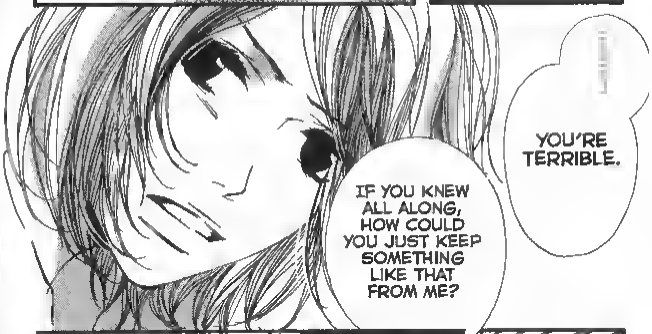
PLEASE TELL ME HOW I CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU.
ALL HIS FRIENDS WILL BE MEETING THERE TO HAVE OUR OWN KIND OF FAREWELL PARTY FOR HIM.
...TO THE BEACH JUST BELOW WAKASU SEASIDE PARK.
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW US, COME SATURDAY NIGHT AROUND 7 O'CLOCK ...
IF YOU LOVED HIM ENOUGH TO CRY NOW THAT HE'S GONE...
... YOU'RE MORE THAN WEL-COME.
Pharmacy

BUT AS FAR AS HIS CASE IS CONCERNED...
...
THERE'S STILL SOMETHING IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAVE TO KNOW.




NOW, THE STORY WITH KAZEMICHI UP UNTIL THAT POINT...
...IS THAT HE WAS AN ORPHAN FROM CHINA WHO MOVED TO JAPAN WITH HIS GRANDPARENTS WHEN HE WAS STILL VERY YOUNG.
ALSO IN 1983, KIYOSHI HIMEJIMA HAD A CHILD NAMED REIJI WITH A WOMAN NAMED HIROE SHIINA. A YEAR BEFORE KAZEMICHI WAS ADOPTED, REIJI DIED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT.
KAZEMICHI HIMEJIMA WAS BORN IN 1983, THEN WAS ADOPTED BY KIYOSHI HIMEJIMA SIX YEARS AGO, RIGHT?

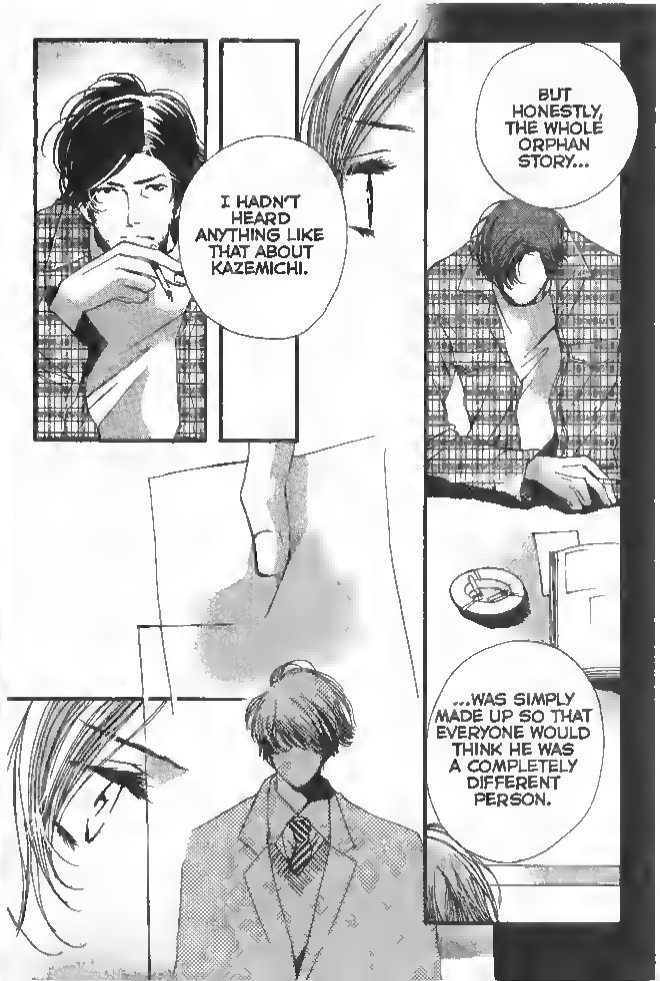

I'M SORRY IF IT HURT YOU.
BUT I THOUGHT FINDING OUT THE TRUTH WOULD BE THE BEST WAY FOR YOU TO HANDLE YOUR LOSS.
BUT I WANTED YOUR ASSISTANCE, SO I ASKED THEM NOT TO TAKE YOU OFF OF THE CASE.


YOU'RE TERRIBLE.
IF YOU KNEW ALL ALONG, HOW COULD YOU JUST KEEP SOMETHING LIKE THAT FROM ME?

YOU CAN HATE ME IF YOU WANT.

GOOD QUESTION.

THIS ISN'T KAZEMICHI. I'M SURE THIS IS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON.
THE REPORT SHOWS THAT, SIX YEARS AGO, IN APRIL, WHILE CROSSING A MAJOR HIGHWAY, REIJI WAS SEVERELY INJURED BY A LARGE FREIGHT TRUCK AND DIED SEVEN DAYS LATER.
IN OTHER WORDS, REIJI AND KAZEMICHI ARE THE SAME PERSON.
INVESTI-GATORS IN THIS CASE HAVE TESTED AND CONFIRMED THAT THE BLOOD FOUND ON THE PIECE OF KAZE-MICHI'S SHOE IS A PERFECT MATCH.
BEFORE REIJI DIED, BLOOD TESTS CONFIRMED THAT KIYOSHI HIMEJIMA WAS HIS FATHER.


I HADN'T HEARD ANYTHING LIKE THAT ABOUT KAZEMICHI.
BUT HONESTLY, THE WHOLE ORPHAN STORY...
...WAS SIMPLY MADE UP SO THAT EVERYONE WOULD THINK HE WAS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON.

AFTER ALL, I KEPT SECRETS FROM HIM.

I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THAT EITHER.

EVEN THOUGH WE WERE LIVING TOGETHER, KAZEMICHI...I MEAN...

...“G”...NEVER TOLD ME ANYTHING ABOUT HIS PAST. NEITHER ONE OF US WAS HONEST ABOUT OUR PASTS.

A TEAM OF SCIENTISTS HAVE BEEN RE-CONSTRUCTING BY COMPUTER...

...HOW “G” MIGHT HAVE BEEN MADE.

SO, THEN...

...HE KEPT IT A SECRET FROM EVERYONE, INCLUDING YOU.

OF COURSE HE DID.

OF COURSE KAZEMICHI WOULDN’T HAVE THOUGHT HE COULD TRUST ME.

WELL, TRY NOT TO WORRY YOURSELF ABOUT THAT.

IT’S NOT YOUR FAULT. THERE’S NOTHING YOU COULD’VE DONE.

WELL, SINCE EITHER NAME IS INVALID AT THIS POINT, WE’LL REFER TO THE VICTIM AS “G.”

I ALWAYS USE THAT AS A NAME IN GAMES. IT’S EASIER.

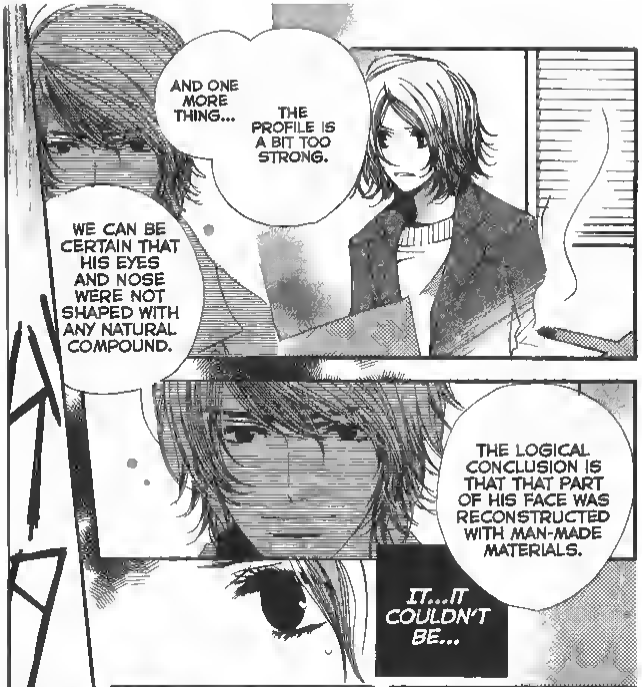
SO, “G” CHANGED HIS NAME TO “KAZEMICHI” THREE YEARS AFTER “REIJI” DIED AND MOVED TO TOKYO, WHERE HE ENTERED A UNIVERSITY. THEN THREE MORE YEARS WENT BY, AND AT 21 YEARS OF AGE, HE DIED IN A MYSTERIOUS FIRE AND EXPLOSION.

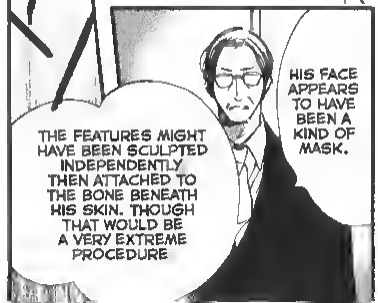
HOWEVER, HIS FATHER IS A PRIVATE SECTOR BUSINESSMAN WHO APPARENTLY RECEIVED A VERY LARGE SUM OF MONEY FOR THE DONATION OF MATERIALS TO MEDICAL RESEARCH LABS. SO MUCH THAT HE’S BEEN BLACKLISTED.

SO WHO IS KAZEMICHI REALLY?

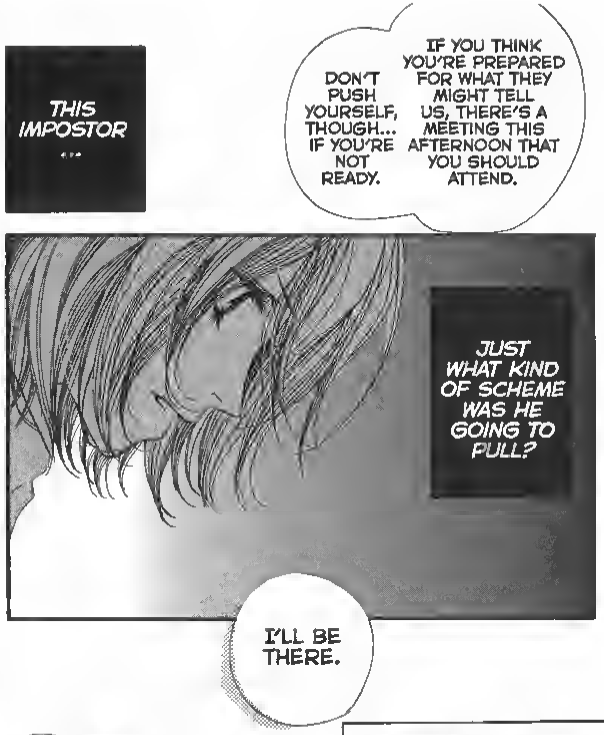
THAT CAN’T BE...

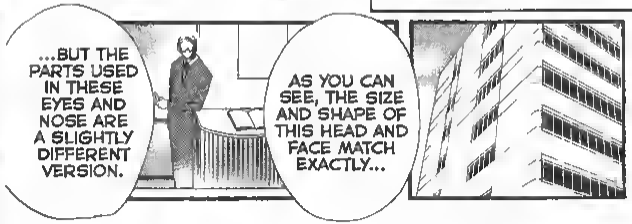
ARE YOU SAYING THAT REIJI DIED AND WAS RESURRECTED WITH A NEW BODY? THAT’S ABSURD.

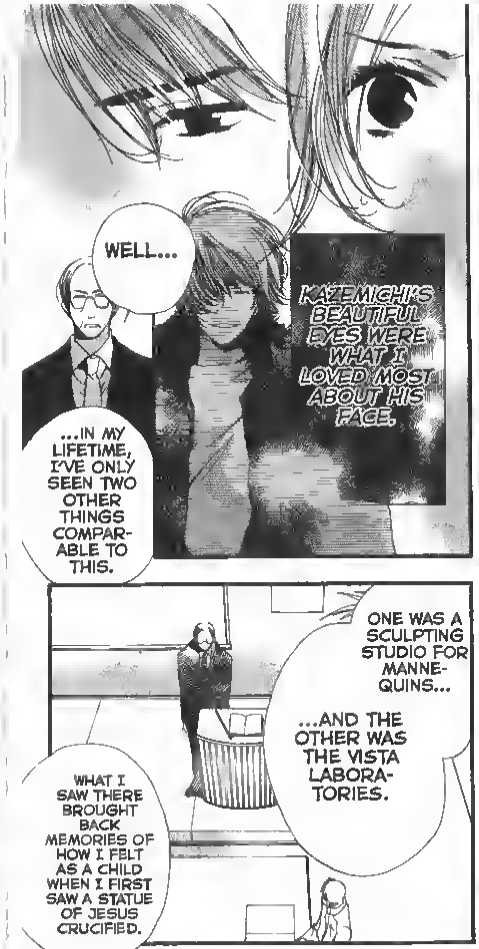

AND ONE MORE THING...
THE PROFILE IS A BIT TOO STRONG.
WE CAN BE CERTAIN THAT HIS EYES AND NOSE WERE NOT SHAPED WITH ANY NATURAL COMPOUND.
THE LOGICAL CONCLUSION IS THAT THAT PART OF HIS FACE WAS RECONSTRUCTED WITH MAN-MADE MATERIALS.
IT...IT COULDN'T BE...

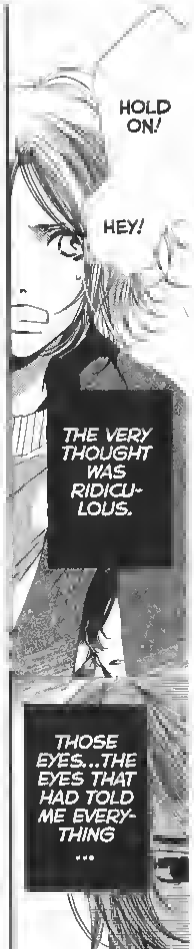

THE FEATURES MIGHT HAVE BEEN SCULPTED INDEPENDENTLY THEN ATTACHED TO THE BONE BENEATH HIS SKIN. THOUGH THAT WOULD BE A VERY EXTREME PROCEDURE
HIS FACE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A KIND OF MASK.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "MAN-MADE MATERIALS"?


THIS IMPOSTOR ...
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF, THOUGH... IF YOU'RE NOT READY.
IF YOU THINK YOU'RE PREPARED FOR WHAT THEY MIGHT TELL US, THERE'S A MEETING THIS AFTERNOON THAT YOU SHOULD ATTEND.
JUST WHAT KIND OF SCHEME WAS HE GOING TO PULL?
I'LL BE THERE.


...BUT THE PARTS USED IN THESE EYES AND NOSE ARE A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT VERSION.
AS YOU CAN SEE, THE SIZE AND SHAPE OF THIS HEAD AND FACE MATCH EXACTLY...


WELL...
KAZEMICHI'S BEAUTIFUL EYES WERE WHAT I LOVED MOST ABOUT HIS FACE.
...IN MY LIFETIME, I'VE ONLY SEEN TWO OTHER THINGS COMPARABLE TO THIS.
ONE WAS A SCULPTING STUDIO FOR MANNEQUINS...
...AND THE OTHER WAS THE VISTA LABORATORIES.
WHAT I SAW THERE BROUGHT BACK MEMORIES OF HOW I FELT AS A CHILD WHEN I FIRST SAW A STATUE OF JESUS CRUCIFIED.


HOLD ON!
HEY!
THE VERY THOUGHT WAS RIDICULOUS.
THOSE EYES...THE EYES THAT HAD TOLD ME EVERYTHING ...

...THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO BUT PRAY THAT KAZEMICHI CAN HEAR ME... AND HELP ME, FROM WHEREVER HE IS NOW.
IF I CAN'T FIND ANY PEACE RIGHT NOW IN MY WORK...
JUR! ...
KAZEMICHI.
THAT'S RIGHT! HE GOT A PHONE CALL JUST BEFORE HE LEFT!
I KNOW IT'S NOT EVEN CHRISTMAS EVE YET, BUT...
WORK ON YOUR MIND?

I THINK I'M GONNA BE SICK.

EVERYTHING ABOUT KAZEMICHI HAD BEEN ALTERED BEYOND RECOGNITION...

...IN ORDER TO ERASE HIS PREVIOUS EXISTENCE.

WHICH MEANT HE COULD HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN SOME UNSPEAKABLE CRIME...

NOW HE'S A HOMICIDE VICTIM... AND POSSIBLY ENTANGLED IN...

I NEED A DRINK OF WATER.

WHILE HE WAS ON THE PHONE...

OKAY. GOT IT.

HIS EXPRESSION SUDDENLY TURNED VERY SERIOUS.

THIS IS MITANI. I'VE FOUND SOMETHING THAT WILL HELP.

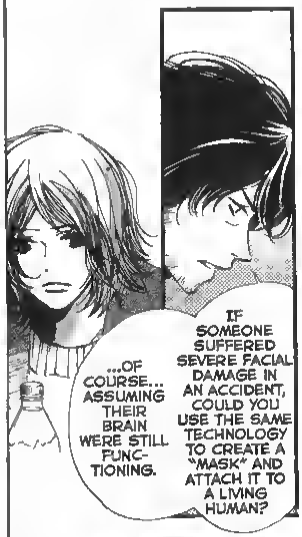
I CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T REMEMBER SUCH A VITAL CLUE.

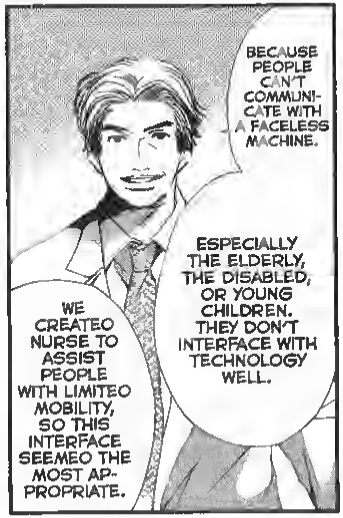
OKAY. I'LL LOOK INTO IT.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE HIS CELL PHONE IS NOW?

...I SEE. THEN AFTER HE HUNG UP HE HEADED OUT TO GET HIS BIKE?

.....

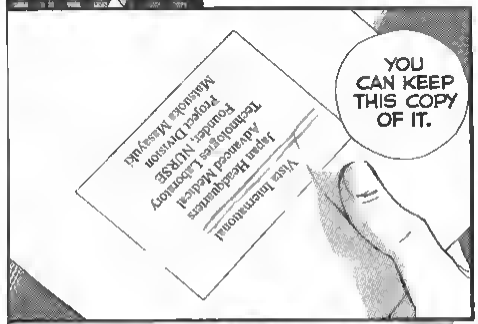

...OF COURSE... ASSUMING THEIR BRAIN WERE STILL FUNCTIONING.
IF SOMEONE SUFFERED SEVERE FACIAL DAMAGE IN AN ACCIDENT, COULD YOU USE THE SAME TECHNOLOGY TO CREATE A "MASK" AND ATTACH IT TO A LIVING HUMAN?


BECAUSE PEOPLE CAN'T COMMUNICATE WITH A FACELESS MACHINE.
ESPECIALLY THE ELDERLY, THE DISABLED, OR YOUNG CHILDREN. THEY DON'T INTERFACE WITH TECHNOLOGY WELL.
WE CREATED NURSE TO ASSIST PEOPLE WITH LIMITED MOBILITY, SO THIS INTERFACE SEEMED THE MOST APPROPRIATE.

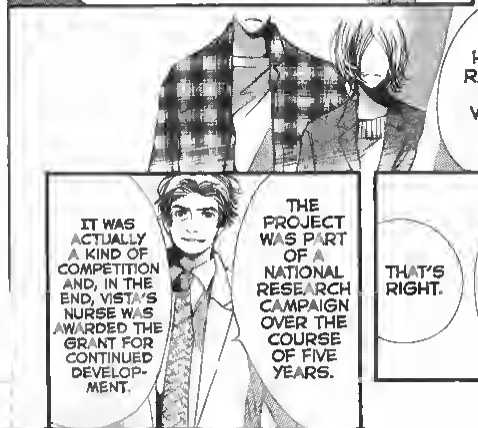
DID KAZEMICHI'S FACE...
...COME FROM THE SAME FACTORY AS THIS MACHINE?
...NERVE ENDINGS CANNOT BE INSTALLED INTO A FACE MASK. IF THE DAMAGE IS THAT BAD, NO SURGERY CAN MAKE A PERSON FUNCTION NORMALLY AGAIN.
HOWEVER ...
THAT LEVEL OF SURGERY ...
...IS INDEED POSSIBLE. AS LONG AS THE NERVES OF THE FACIAL MUSCLES ATTACHED TO THE MASK WERE LEFT INTACT, THE MASK COULD BE CONTROLLED BY THE BRAIN

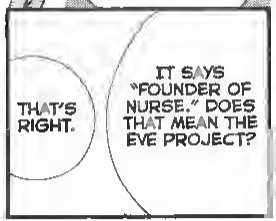
WE CALL THIS PROTOTYPE "NURSE." SHE'S THE FIRST OF THIS VARIETY SINCE VISTA FIRST RECEIVED FUNDING FOR THE RESEARCH SEVEN YEARS AGO.
YOU CAN TELL BY THE SLOWNESS IN HER REACTION THAT SHE'S JUST A PROTOTYPE...
...BUT SOMEHOW, SHE'S STILL HOLDING TOGETHER.
WHY...
...DOES THIS ROBOT NEED TO HAVE SUCH A REALISTIC HUMAN FACE?

.....
DON'T GET EMOTIONAL ABOUT THIS. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE INVESTIGATION.


YOU CAN KEEP THIS COPY OF IT.
Vista International
Japan Headquarters
Advanced Medical
Technologies Laboratory
Founder, NURSE
Project Division
Masuko Masayuki

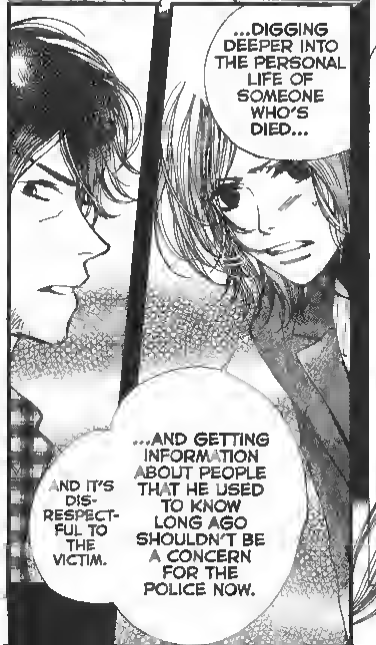
THANKS FOR WAIT-ING.


HE FOUNDED RAM AND HE'S CURRENTLY VISTA'S HEAD SURGEON.
IT WAS ACTUALLY A KIND OF COMPETITION AND, IN THE END, VISTA'S NURSE WAS AWARDED THE GRANT FOR CONTINUED DEVELOP-MENT.
THE PROJECT WAS PART OF A NATIONAL RESEARCH CAMPAIGN OVER THE COURSE OF FIVE YEARS.


THAT'S RIGHT.
IT SAYS "FOUNDER OF NURSE." DOES THAT MEAN THE EVE PROJECT?

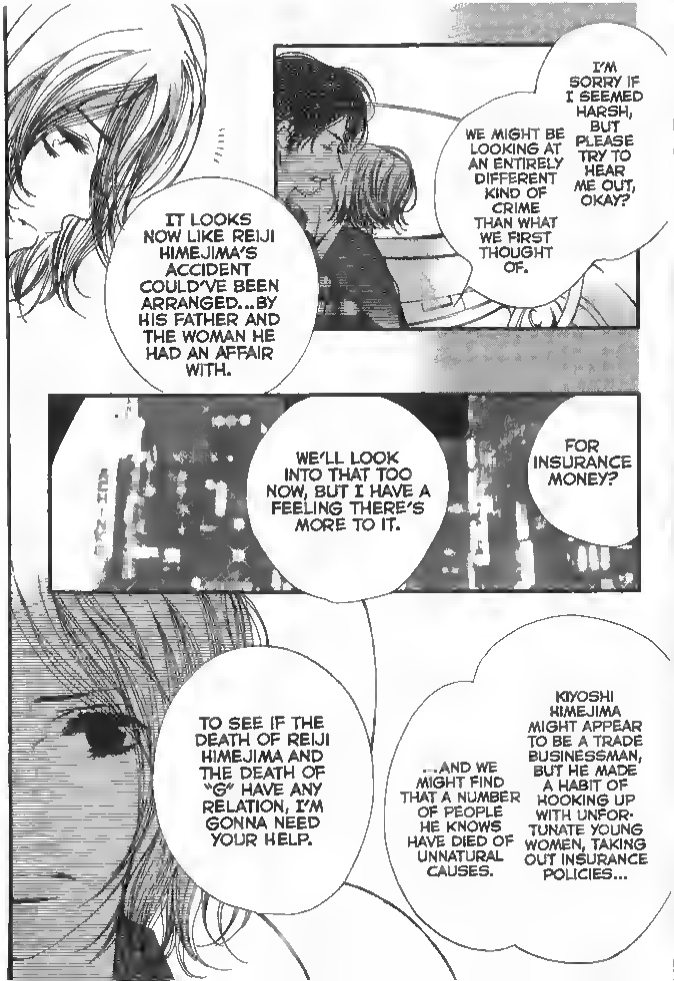
EXCUSE ME. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
カチャ

COLLECTING EVIDENCE IN A HOMICIDE CASE IS ONE THING, BUT...


...DIGGING DEEPER INTO THE PERSONAL LIFE OF SOMEONE WHO'S DIED...
AND IT'S DIS-RESPECT-FUL TO THE VICTIM.
...AND GETTING INFORMATION ABOUT PEOPLE THAT HE USED TO KNOW LONG AGO SHOULDN'T BE A CONCERN FOR THE POLICE NOW.

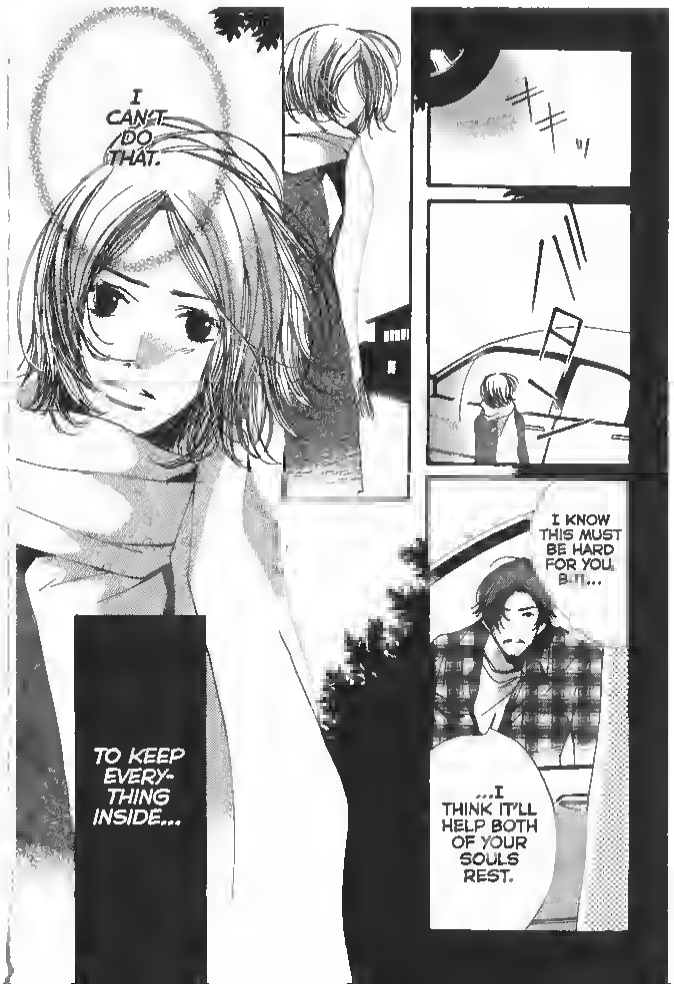
HIS FACE WAS SO GENTLE.

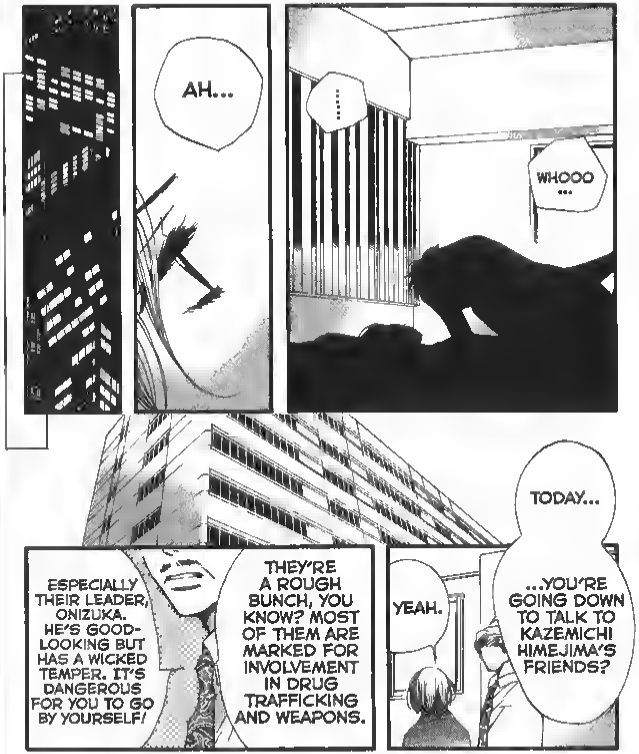
COULD THE WARMTH I'D FELT WHEN HE KISSED ME REALLY HAVE BEEN JUST ANOTHER... PRODUCT?


I'M SORRY IF I SEEMED HARSH, BUT PLEASE TRY TO HEAR ME OUT, OKAY?
WE MIGHT BE LOOKING AT AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT KIND OF CRIME THAN WHAT WE FIRST THOUGHT OF.
IT LOOKS NOW LIKE REIJI HIMEJIMA'S ACCIDENT COULD'VE BEEN ARRANGED...BY HIS FATHER AND THE WOMAN HE HAD AN AFFAIR WITH.
FOR INSURANCE MONEY?
WE'LL LOOK INTO THAT TOO NOW, BUT I HAVE A FEELING THERE'S MORE TO IT.
KIYOSHI HIMEJIMA MIGHT APPEAR TO BE A TRADE BUSINESSMAN, BUT HE MADE A HABIT OF HOOKING UP WITH UNFORTUNATE YOUNG WOMEN, TAKING OUT INSURANCE POLICIES...
...AND WE MIGHT FIND THAT A NUMBER OF PEOPLE HE KNOWS HAVE DIED OF UNNATURAL CAUSES.
TO SEE IF THE DEATH OF REIJI HIMEJIMA AND THE DEATH OF "G" HAVE ANY RELATION, I'M GONNA NEED YOUR HELP.

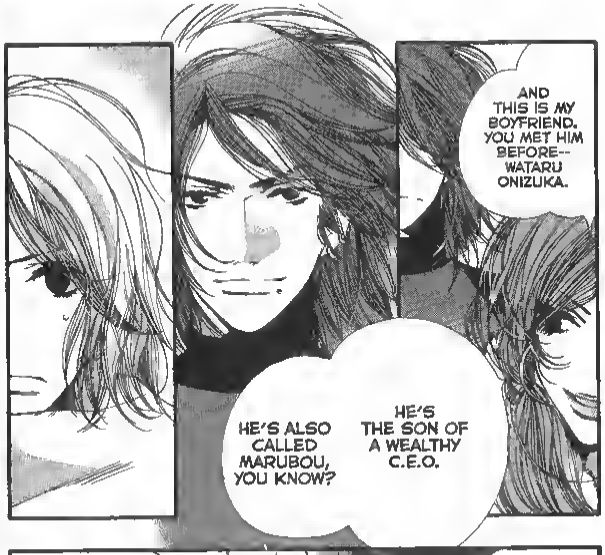
WELL, THANKS FOR YOUR TIME, DOCTOR. WE KNOW YOU'RE VERY BUSY.
LET'S GO, MITANI.
NO OTHER DEVELOPER'S RESULTS COULD EVEN COMPARE TO VISTA'S HUMANOID INTERFACE.
THE FACE PROGRAM OPENED UP THE POSSIBILITY OF GENERATING AN ALGORITHM TO MIMIC HUMAN MOVEMENT AND BEHAVIOR FLAWLESSLY.
I TELL YOU...
...IT'S FRIGHTFULLY REALISTIC.

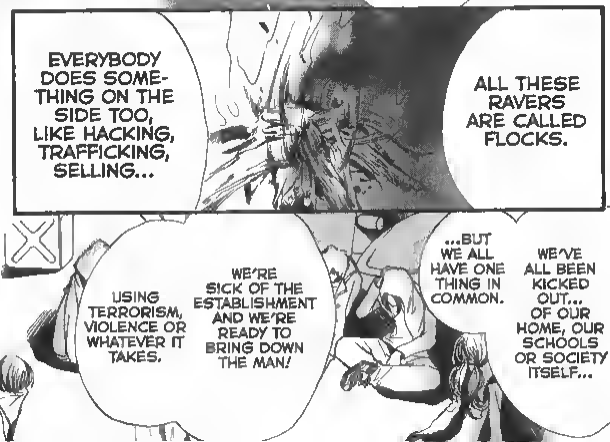
BUT AT THAT RATE, I WAS GOING TO BREAK DOWN.
I HAD TO WAIT. I HAD TO SAVE THE CRYING UNTIL AFTER THIS CASE WAS SOLVED AND I WAS ALL ALONE.
IM-POSSIBLE... I CAN'T DO IT.
I COULDN'T HAVE COPED BY SHUTTING ALL MY FEELINGS AWAY.
THAT WOULD HAVE USED UP ALL OF MY STRENGTH.
I KNOW IT'S TOUGH FOR YOU.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE GONE OUT, HUH?
BUT YOU MUST'VE GOTTEN INTO THIS KIND OF WORK FOR A REASON, RIGHT?
EVEN THOUGH WE WORK IN THE SAME BUILDING, WE ALMOST NEVER RUN INTO EACH OTHER


I CAN'T DO THAT.
TO KEEP EVERY-THING INSIDE...
I KNOW THIS MUST BE HARD FOR YOU, BUT...
...I THINK IT'LL HELP BOTH OF YOUR SOULS REST.


AH...
WHOOO ...
ESPECIALLY THEIR LEADER, ONIZUKA. HE'S GOOD-LOOKING BUT HAS A WICKED TEMPER. IT'S DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO GO BY YOURSELF!
THEY'RE A ROUGH BUNCH, YOU KNOW? MOST OF THEM ARE MARKED FOR INVOLVEMENT IN DRUG TRAFFICKING AND WEAPONS.
YEAH.
TODAY...
...YOU'RE GOING DOWN TO TALK TO KAZEMICHI HIMEJIMA'S FRIENDS?
IF THEY WERE KAZEMICHI'S FRIENDS, I NEEDED TO GO SEE THEM.

YEAH...I GUESS.
BUT HONESTLY ...
...I'M NOT SURE WHAT THAT REASON WAS.
OH, YEAH...
...FEEL THAT?
AHHH...
UHH ...


AND THIS IS MY BOYFRIEND. YOU MET HIM BEFORE-- WATARU ONIZUKA.
HE'S ALSO CALLED MARUBOU, YOU KNOW?
HE'S THE SON OF A WEALTHY C.E.O.


EVERYBODY DOES SOME-THING ON THE SIDE TOO, LIKE HACKING, TRAFFICKING, SELLING...
ALL THESE RAVERS ARE CALLED FLOCKS.
USING TERRORISM, VIOLENCE OR WHATEVER IT TAKES.
WE'RE SICK OF THE ESTABLISHMENT AND WE'RE READY TO BRING DOWN THE MAN!
...BUT WE ALL HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON.
WE'VE ALL BEEN KICKED OUT... OF OUR HOME, OUR SCHOOLS OR SOCIETY ITSELF...

EVEN IF IT MEANT MEETING THE DEVIL HIMSELF.
SO, YOU REALLY CAME.
I'M AOI.

WE FIRST MET WHEN WE ENROLLED IN HIGH SCHOOL.
I'D NEVER TALK TO ANYBODY WITH BAD GRADES, AND IN FRONT OF THE TEACHERS, I WAS ALWAYS ACTING SUPERIOR AND GETTING INTO TROUBLE.
THEN OVER SUMMER BREAK, I LET HIM USE THE MONEY I'D RAKED IN TO GET HIS BODY TUNED UP.
YOU KNOW, MOST OF THE MUSCLE ON MY BODY IS THANKS TO STEROIDS.
BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH I OFFERED, KAZEMICHI NEVER TOOK ANY.
DAY AFTER DAY, ALL WINTER LONG WE'D BE UP ON THE MOUNTAIN PRACTICING OUR JUMPS.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT OF HIM AS MY BEST FRIEND...
...BUT KAZEMICHI NEVER DID TELL ME EVERYTHING.

NO MATTER WHAT HE TRIED, HE COULD NEVER REALLY FIND HAPPINESS, BUT STILL...
...SOMEHOW, HE WAS THE KIND OF GUY EVERYBODY LIKED.
THIS GUY HERE CHANGED HIS FACE COMPLETELY BEFORE HE STARTED HIGH SCHOOL, SO HE COULD HIDE HIS HISTORY AND START OVER.
KAZEMICHI HAD SOME PRETTY ROUGH THINGS IN HIS PAST TOO, BUT I NEVER REALLY KNEW MUCH ABOUT THEM.
WHY COULDN'T HE EVER BE HAPPY?
I DON'T KNOW.
MAYBE BECAUSE ...
...HE KNEW NOTHING HE COULD DO WOULD CHANGE HIS FATE. MAYBE HE THOUGHT EVERYTHING WAS MEANINGLESS.

HERE'S A PHOTO OF HIM FROM WHEN WE WENT TO HAKUBA TOGETHER TWO YEARS AGO.
... IS IT OKAY IF I KEEP THIS?
WAIT ...
WHAT'S WRITTEN ON THE BACK?
I ASKED HIM ABOUT THAT TOO, BUT HE JUST LAUGHED. HE NEVER TOLD ME WHAT IT MEANT.
Zombie's Last Breath
JUST TO REMEMBER HIM...
YEAH, SURE. WHY?

THAT'S ENOUGH NOW. THIS IS HIS FAREWELL PARTY, SO LET'S TRY TO KEEP IT UPBEAT, OKAY?
KAZEMICHI AS A HIGH SCHOOLER ...
... YOU'VE GOTTA HAVE A DRINK FOR HIM.
TO BID KAZEMICHI OFF TO THE NEXT LIFE...
...SOMETHING I COULD NEVER REALLY PICTURE.
HERE.

I HAVEN'T "HANDLED" ANYTHING.

I'VE JUST BECOME REALLY GOOD AT CONCEALING IT.

LOOK, I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN AVOIDING ME.

BECAUSE IF I LET MYSELF THINK ABOUT IT...

...IT MIGHT CAUSE ME TO LOSE MY ROBOTIC FACADE.

I EVEN TOOK A STEP DOWN AT WORK... A DEMO-TION!

BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, THAT'S WHY!!

WHY DO YOU THINK I EVEN BOTHER TAKING CARE OF YOU ALL, HUH?!

Zombie's Last Breath

YOU DID A NICE JOB SUMMARIZING EVERYTHING HERE.

AND IN YOUR CASE...

...I THINK YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR FATHER HAS ALWAYS WEIGHED HEAVILY ON YOU.

ANYONE WHO ISN'T SURE OF THE VALUE OF THEIR LIFE IS CONDEMNED TO LIVE WITH A SHADOW HANGING OVER THEM UNTIL THEY CAN CAST OFF THEIR DOUBT.

PERHAPS PLAYING DOWN THE EFFECT YOUR FATHER HAD ON YOU SEEMED A LITTLE BIASED IN HIS FAVOR, BUT IT APPEARS THAT YOU'VE FINALLY HANDLED THIS

BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, THAT'S WHY...
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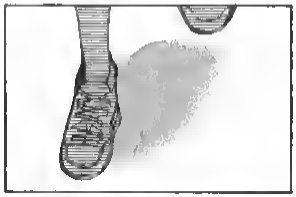
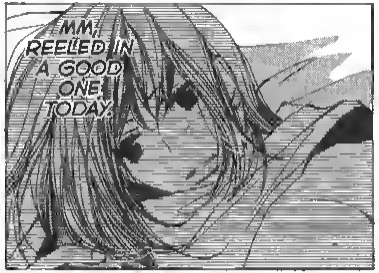
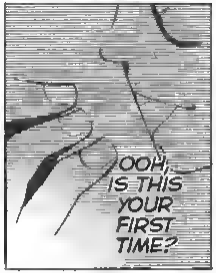
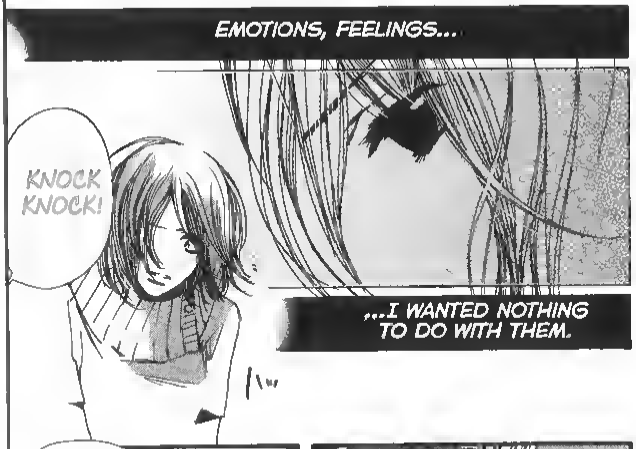
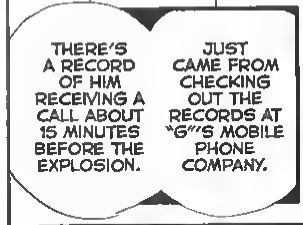
YOU'RE THE GIRL WHO CALLED ...?




MM, REELED IN A GOOD ONE TODAY.

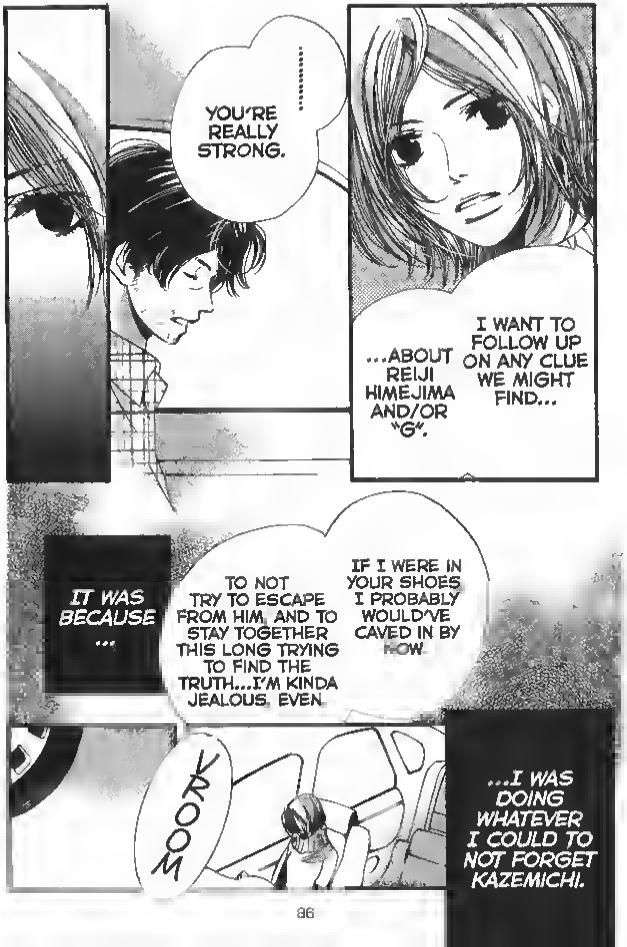

OOH, IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME?

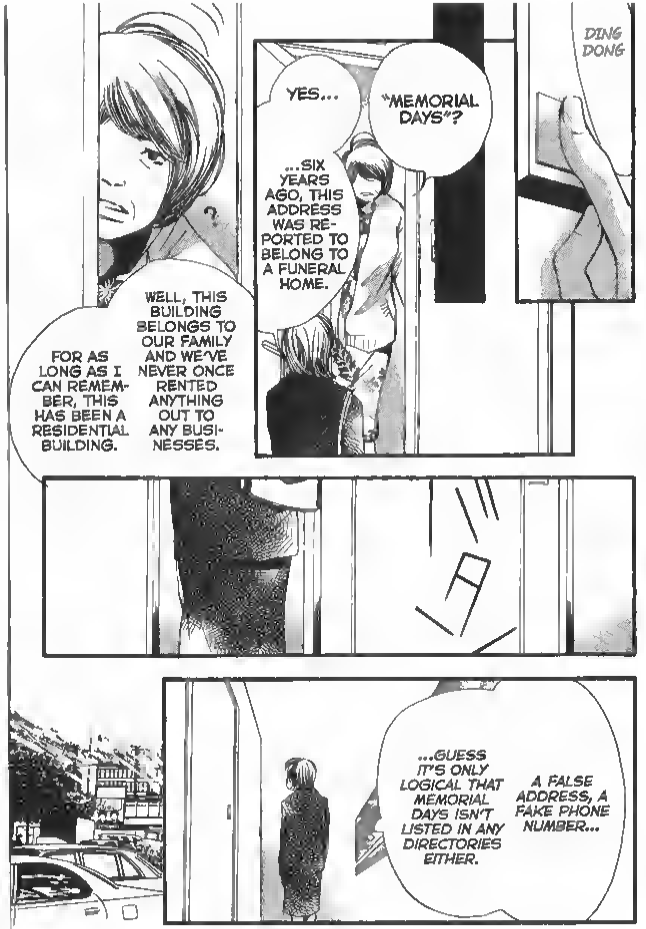

EMOTIONS, FEELINGS...
KNOCK KNOCK!
...I WANTED NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM.


THERE'S A RECORD OF HIM RECEIVING A CALL ABOUT 15 MINUTES BEFORE THE EXPLOSION.
JUST CAME FROM CHECKING OUT THE RECORDS AT "G"'S MOBILE PHONE COMPANY.

WELL, WE CAN'T SAY FOR SURE. THAT GARAGE IS WHERE TSUKIGIME EMPLOYEES PARK. WE CAN'T BE SURE WHETHER SOMEONE OUTSIDE THE COMPANY PARKED THERE.
THE PERSON WHO CALLED HIM COULD'VE SEEN PARKED BY THE GARAGE
THE INCOMING CALL WASN'T PLACED FROM A LANDLINE. IT WAS PROBABLY A CAR PHONE, SO WE'LL HAVE A HARD TIME TRYING TO TRACK IT DOWN.

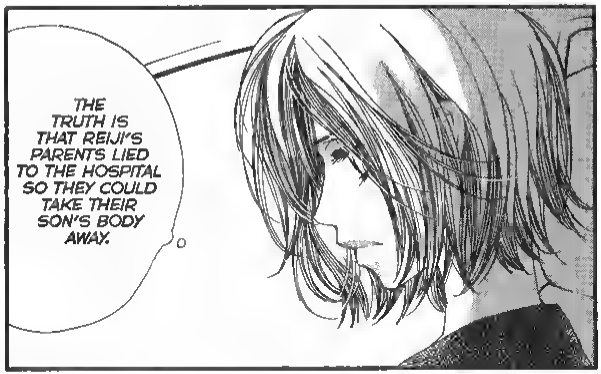
REIJI... HIMEJIMA...
病院
I REMEMBERED THINGS I COULDN'T TELL YOU.
YOU KNOW, I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED...
JURI ...
BUT STILL ...
WHY A GIRL WHO'S ALWAYS LIVED AN ELITE LIFESTYLE...
...WOULD WANT TO LIVE WITH AN AVERAGE COLLEGE GUY WORKING A DEAD-END JOB, HEH-HEH.
OH, YEAH. HERE'S THE FILE. PATIENT WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD ON APRIL 7TH, AT 11:27 PM.
THREE HOURS AFTER HE WAS ADMITTED, THE PATIENT SUFFERED HEART FAILURE CAUSED BY TRAUMA.
BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, THAT'S WHY!!

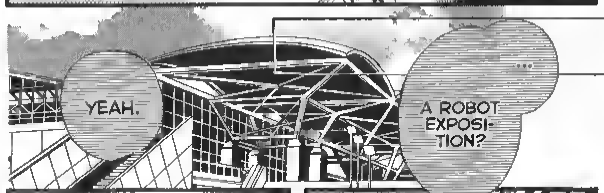

YOU'RE REALLY STRONG.
...ABOUT REIJI HIMEJIMA AND/OR "G".
I WANT TO FOLLOW UP ON ANY CLUE WE MIGHT FIND...
IT WAS BECAUSE ...
TO NOT TRY TO ESCAPE FROM HIM, AND TO STAY TOGETHER THIS LONG TRYING TO FIND THE TRUTH...I'M KINDA JEALOUS, EVEN.
IF I WERE IN YOUR SHOES I PROBABLY WOULD'VE CAVED IN BY NOW.
VROOM
...I WAS DOING WHATEVER I COULD TO NOT FORGET KAZEMICHI.

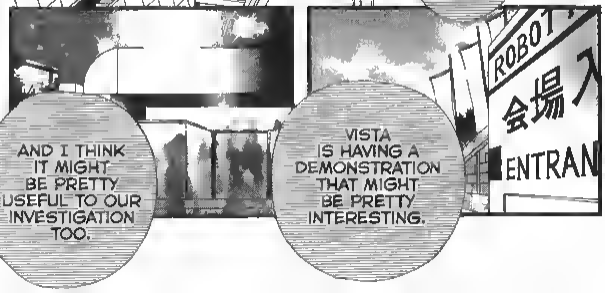

DING DONG
YES...
"MEMORIAL DAYS"?
...SIX YEARS AGO, THIS ADDRESS WAS REPORTED TO BELONG TO A FUNERAL HOME.
WELL, THIS BUILDING BELONGS TO OUR FAMILY AND WE'VE NEVER ONCE RENTED ANYTHING OUT TO ANY BUSINESSES.
FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, THIS HAS BEEN A RESIDENTIAL BUILDING.
...GUESS IT'S ONLY LOGICAL THAT MEMORIAL DAYS ISN'T LISTED IN ANY DIRECTORIES EITHER.
A FALSE ADDRESS, A FAKE PHONE NUMBER...

SOMEONE FROM THE FUNERAL HOME *MEMORIAL DAYS* CAME TO TAKE THE BODY AWAY.
THE PATIENT'S PARENTS DECIDED TO HAVE HIM EMBALMED... AS OPPOSED TO CREMATION, WHICH IS WHAT WE WOULD USUALLY DO HERE.
AND THEN HOW WAS HIS BODY HANDLED?
EMBALMED...AS OPPOSED TO CREMATION?
BUT IT'S STILL RARE ENOUGH THAT WHENEVER SOMEONE REQUESTS IT, WE KEEP A RECORD.
YES, RECENTLY, I'VE NOTICED A NUMBER OF PEOPLE REQUESTING THAT. IT'S A SERVICE THAT ALLOWS FOR AN EXTENDED WAKE, REQUESTED BY FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WANT A LITTLE MORE TIME.
ESSENTIALLY, THE BODY IS SIMPLY PLACED IN A KIND OF COLD STORAGE.
I REMEMBER THINKING, "WHAT WILL THEY DO IF SOME OF THE BODY'S FUNCTIONS BEGIN TO RESUSCITATE?"

HEY, MITANI... WHY DON'T YOU TRY ASKING HIM A FEW QUESTIONS?
AND OUR NEWEST HUMANOID ROBOT IS DAVID II, WHICH IS...


THE TRUTH IS THAT REIJI'S PARENTS LIED TO THE HOSPITAL SO THEY COULD TAKE THEIR SON'S BODY AWAY.

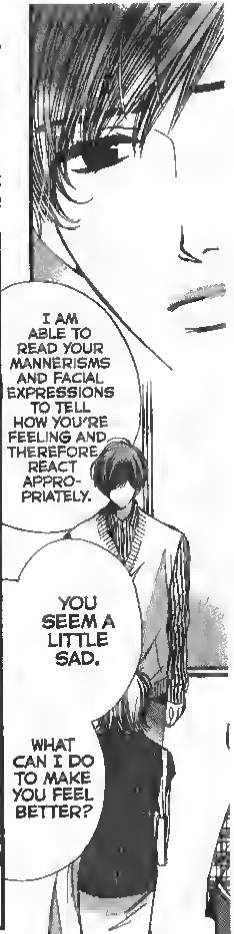

YEAH.
...
A ROBOT EXPOSI-TION?


AND I THINK IT MIGHT BE PRETTY USEFUL TO OUR INVESTIGATION TOO.
VISTA IS HAVING A DEMONSTRATION THAT MIGHT BE PRETTY INTERESTING.
ROBOT
会場入
ENTRAN

Y-YOU DO LOOK REALLY HAPPY.
EVEN WITHOUT ANY MOTIVE TO BE HAPPY OR ANY FUNNY STIMULI...
...YOU CAN JUST SMILE AND FAKE IT LIKE THAT?

THIS IS ONLY OUR SECOND PROTO-TYPE...
...JUST HE'S PROGRAMMED TO HANDLE BASIC COMMUNICATION, READ FACIAL EXPRESSIONS AND PERFORM SIMPLE FUNCTIONS.

I WANT ...
...TO SEE YOU SMILE.
LET ME SEE YOU LOOK REALLY EXCITED AND HAPPY.


I AM ABLE TO READ YOUR MANNERISMS AND FACIAL EXPRESSIONS TO TELL HOW YOU'RE FEELING AND THEREFORE REACT APPRO-PRIATELY.
YOU SEEM A LITTLE SAD.
WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER?

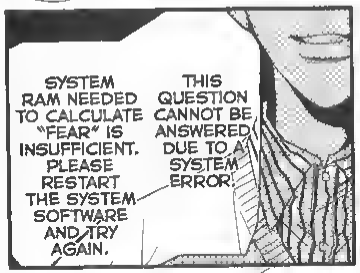
MIGUEL'S THEORY PROPOSED THAT COPYING THE NEURO-ELECTRIC PATTERNS THAT A MONKEY'S BRAIN USES TO CONTROLS ITS ARM WOULD GIVE US THE NECESSARY INFORMATION REQUIRED TO PROGRAM A ROBOTIC ARM TO MOVE EXACTLY LIKE A MONKEY.
...IN NOVEMBER OF 2000, WHEN NORTH AMERICAN DUKE MIGUEL NIKOLAS FIRST PUBLISHED HIS ROBOTIC ARM HYPOTHESIS. THAT'S THE FOUNDATION.
THIS TECH-NOLOGY BEGAN ...
HOW ABOUT IF I EXPLAIN IT INSTEAD...
THAT IS, HIS BASIC FUNCTIONS, LIKE MOVING HIS ARMS, LEGS AND HEAD.
DAVID II IS SUCH A MACHINE. HIS ACTIONS ARE MODELED AFTER HUMAN BRAIN PATTERNS.
AH, WELL...THAT KIND OF TECHNICAL DETAIL, UM...
CAN YOU TELL ME IN MORE DETAIL ABOUT THE WAY THESE THOUGHT PATTERNS ARE PRODUCED?
SO JUST WHOSE BRAIN PATTERNS DID THEY COPY TO GET THIS?

...OUR JOINT PROJECT, NURSE, ALONG WITH THE SANKAN FELLOWSHIP, IS CURRENTLY DEVELOPING THIS TECHNOLOGY, AND THE PLAN IS TO CREATE MACHINES THAT CAN INTERFACE NATURALLY WITH HUMANS.
HOW-EVER...
COULD WE TAKE THIS MASK OFF?
I'D LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK INSIDE.
TO PROTECT OUR ADVANCE-MENTS FROM COMPETITIVE CORPORATIONS PURSUING THE SAME TECHNOLOGY, I'M AFRAID WE CAN'T SHOW OUR MOST ADVANCED MODELS HERE.
COME ON, PLEASE?
BUT IT'S TRULY AMAZING. I'D REALLY LIKE TO SEE WHAT KIND OF SYSTEM IT TAKES TO PRODUCE SUCH A REALISTIC EXPRES-SION.
SIR, PLEASE!
IT'S A VERY DELICATE MACHINE, SO WE CAN'T JUST TAKE IT APART RIGHT HERE
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, BUT WE HAVE TO ASK YOU NOT TO TOUCH.

NO.
YES.
NO...
YES.

YES, I AM.

HEY, DO YOU KNOW WHAT DEATH IS?
ARE YOU AFRAID OF DYING?


SYSTEM RAM NEEDED TO CALCULATE "FEAR" IS INSUFFICIENT. PLEASE RESTART THE SYSTEM SOFTWARE AND TRY AGAIN.
THIS QUESTION CANNOT BE ANSWERED DUE TO A SYSTEM ERROR.

LET'S GET OUTTA HERE.

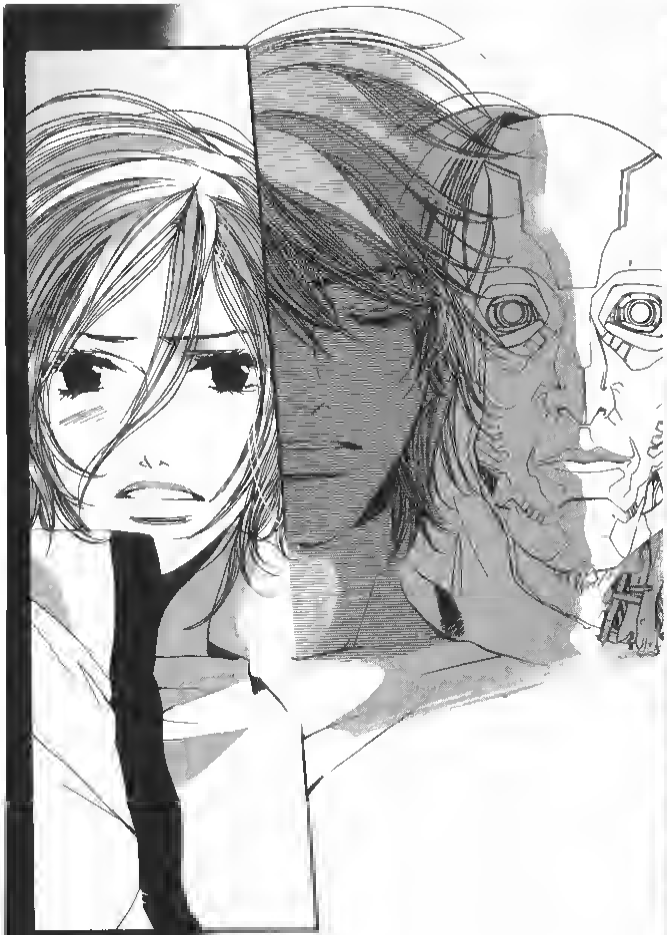
...ARE JUST TOO MUCH LIKE KAZE-MICHI'S.
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE JUST A PUPPET.

YEAH ...
LET ME GET YOU SOMEONE ELSE FOR THAT

EXPRES-SIONS...

は!!
...UNTIL I LET YOU RETURN BACK TO NOTHING.
...I AM NOT LEAVING...
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK

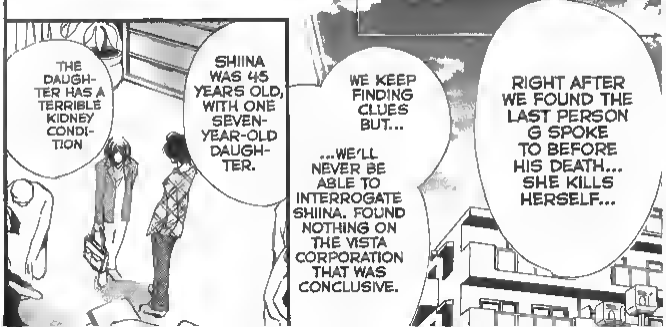
...I DON'T THINK I CAN BEAR FOR YOU TO EVEN BE SEEN AGAIN.
IF YOU NO LONGER HAVE A SOUL...
!



IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD ...
HE IS THE ONLY PERSON ALLOWED TO HAVE THAT SMILE.
I WON'T ALLOW ANYONE ELSE.

YOU CAN'T BE KAZEMICHI ANYMORE.
YOU MUST BE ERASED COMPLETE-LY.

REIJI'S MOTHER, SHIINA HIROE, WAS FOUND EARLY THIS MORNING IN KOUTOUKU, AT KAMEIDO... DEAD OF A DRUG OVERDOSE.
JUST NOW I GOT A REPORT IN...


THE DAUGHTER HAS A TERRIBLE KIDNEY CONDITION
SHIINA WAS 45 YEARS OLD, WITH ONE SEVEN-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER.
WE KEEP FINDING CLUES BUT...
...WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO INTERROGATE SHIINA. FOUND NOTHING ON THE VISTA CORPORATION THAT WAS CONCLUSIVE.
RIGHT AFTER WE FOUND THE LAST PERSON G SPOKE TO BEFORE HIS DEATH... SHE KILLS HERSELF...

YOU WORK HERE AT ZODIAC, RIGHT? A CAR REGISTERED TO THIS SHOP WAS REPORTED OUTSIDE THE KASAI STATION BICYCLE PARKING STRUCTURE LAST WEEK ON THE 24TH.
IT WAS A GRAY NISSAN. PLEASE GIVE US ALL THE INFORMATION YOU CAN.
THAT DAY, THE MANAGER, MS. SHIINA, USED THE COMPANY CAR TO GO TO THE BANK AND MAKE A WITHDRAWAL.
BUT LAST WEEK, MS. SHIINA ALSO USED IT FOR SOMETHING IN THE MORNING... DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
POLICE
MS. SHIINA?
HIROE SHIINA... REIJI HIMEJIMA'S MOTHER'S NAME...
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
WOULD THAT BE MS. HIROE SHIINA?
MITANI
...A WORD WITH YOU. RIGHT NOW?

POST OFFICE

A HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY...

ALUCO

HERE IT IS.

¢1.5 MILLION PAYABLE IN CASE OF DEATH OF THE INSUREO.

STATING THE TRANSFER OF LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS FROM THE ORIGINAL BENEFACTOR TO HIROE SHIINA'S DAUGHTER, MIOU.

Original Benefactor

NAME: Kazemichi Himejima

ADDRESS: Tokyo

ISN'T IT WEIRD THAT SHE WOULD AVOID PAYING FOR HER CHILD'S OPERATION, BUT THEN JUST KILL HERSELF LIKE THIS?

THREE TIMES THIS YEAR, SHE WAS SCHEDULED FOR SURGERY TO TRY TO CORRECT IT.

THE DAUGHTER HAS BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL EVERY DAY, AND SHIINA APPEALED TO THE HOSPITAL TO LET HER TAKE HER DAUGHTER HOME INSTEAD OF PAYING FOR THE SURGERY.

...THAT A REGISTERED LETTER IS WAITING FOR HER AT THE POST OFFICE.

WE'LL HAVE SOMEONE GO PICK IT UP LATER TODAY.

WE FOUND ...

HER DAUGHTER'S NAME IS MIOU.

THIS IS QUITE A SAD CASE, ISN'T IT?

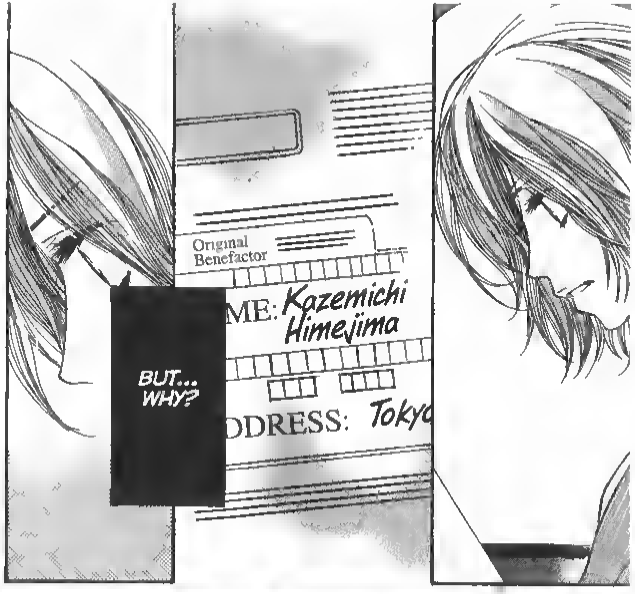
APPARENTLY THE MOTHER WOULD'VE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR 40% OF THE HOSPITAL COSTS.

I'LL GET IT FOR YOU.

.....

...PLANNED HIS OWN DEATH.
JUST BEFORE THE ACCI-DENT...
...SOME-ONE CALLED KAZEMICHI'S CELL PHONE AND TOLD HIM TO COME OUT TO THE PARKING GARAGE...
...IN ORDER TO KILL THEIR SON AND CLAIM THE INSURANCE MONEY THAT'S THE ONLY LOGICAL THEORY SO FAR
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT HIS FATHER, KIYOSHI, PLANNED THIS ENTIRE SCHEME...

I COULDN'T COME TO A GOOD CONCLUSION ON THIS.
...IN WHICH CASE KAZEMICHI WILLINGLY KILLED HIMSELF.
OKAY, GOT IT.
SO... WHY DID HE GO...?
NOW IT SEEMED LIKE HE KNEW EXACTLY WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN WHEN HE WENT THERE.
ALL ALONG, I JUST FIGURED THAT HE GOT ALONG WITH THEM FINE.
THE ENTIRE TIME WE LIVED TOGETHER, KAZEMICHI AND I BOTH AVOIDED TALKING ABOUT OUR FAMILIES AND OUR PASTS.


Original Benefactor
ME: Kazemichi Himejima
ODRESS: Tokyo
BUT... WHY?

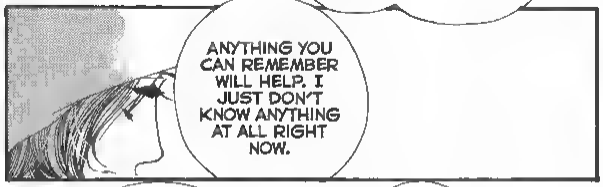
KAZEMICHI MUST HAVE
WHY WOULD HE HAVE TRANS-FERRED ALL OF THIS INSURANCE MONEY...
...TO HIROE SHIINA'S DAUGHTER?

HELLO? IT'S ME...
...AOI.
HEY, NEXT WEEK WE'RE ALL HEADED TO HAKUBA... THAT'S KINDA LIKE KAZEMICHI'S HOME TRAINING GROUND.
YOU SHOULD COME WITH US!
I'M ALL OUT OF LEADS NOW. I CHECKED BACK.
BUT OF COURSE, VISTA CORPORATION HAS NO RECORDS OF EVER DEALING WITH HIROE SHIINA. EVERYTHING'S WIPED CLEAN
AS ALWAYS...
...I'M STILL LOOKING FOR CLUES IN "G"'S PAST.
YOU'LL LEARN A LOT MORE ABOUT THE OTHER SIDE TO HIM. THE SIDE WE ALL KNOW.

Case Report Form
WHAT COULD I REPORT ABOUT THIS?
DID THEY MAKE SOME KIND OF ARRANGEMENT?
ON TOP OF THAT, IF HE GAVE UP HIS INSURANCE BENEFITS, WHY WOULD HE EVEN GO SEE HIS MOTHER?
WHY?
SIX YEARS AGO, AFTER REIJI DIED, KAZEMICHI APPEARED AT THE SAME TIME.
KIYOSHI AND HIROE WERE SUDDENLY RESPONSIBLE FOR HIM AFTER HAVING ALMOST COMPLETELY CUT OFF ALL CONNECTIONS.
12 DEC

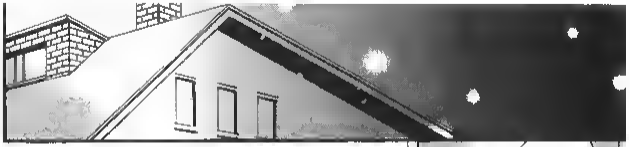
I HEARD FROM WATARU.
YOU'RE THE GIRL KAZEMICHI WAS LIVING WITH?
IF YOU DON'T MIND...
...COULD YOU TELL ME ABOUT WHAT HE WAS DOING BEFORE DIED? I WANT TO HEAR ALL ABOUT HOW HE WAS.

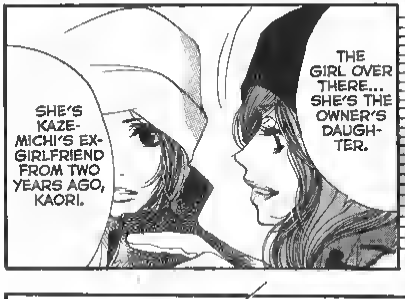
I KNOW WE BROKE UP, AND I DON'T REALLY HAVE A RIGHT TO CARE, BUT...
...DEEP IN MY HEART, I GUESS I NEVER REALLY LET GO OF HIM.


ANYTHING YOU CAN REMEMBER WILL HELP. I JUST DON'T KNOW ANYTHING AT ALL RIGHT NOW.

...TO ANSWER ANY OF YOUR QUESTIONS, THOUGH.

I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE...




THE GIRL OVER THERE... SHE'S THE OWNER'S DAUGHTER.
SHE'S KAZEMICHI'S EX-GIRLFRIEND FROM TWO YEARS AGO, KAORI.

HEY LOOK!

SHE HASN'T REALLY GOTTEN OVER THE NEWS THAT KAZEMICHI KILLED HIMSELF.
SHE WENT BACK TO KOBE FOR A WHILE, SO I GUESS THINGS ARE BETTER.
OH, YOU MUST BE...
HIS EX-LOVER.

ACTUALLY I DON'T THINK I HAVE AN EMERGENCY CONTACT ANYMORE, HEH.
BUT LEGALLY WE'RE NOT RELATED AT ALL. NO ONE WOULD KNOW TO TELL YOU.
I MEAN, WE LIVE TOGETHER AND WE'RE LOVERS...
IF SOMETHING HAPPENED... LIKE I GOT IN AN ACCIDENT AND WAS TAKEN TO A HOSPITAL...
...I WONDER WHO WOULD EVEN TELL YOU WHY I DIDN'T COME HOME?
BET YOU THINK I'M CRAZY FOR EVEN THINKING THAT.

SO I JUST KINDA GAVE HIM A VAGUE SMILE WHEN HE SAID THAT.
THINGS LIKE THAT... I WOULD CHANGE.
THAT DAY AT WORK, MY SUPERVISOR HAD BEEN ON MY CASE AND I GOT STUCK WITH A TON OF FILING. IT WAS A BAD DAY.

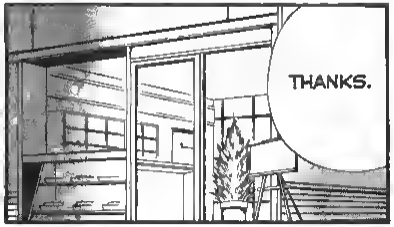
...BUT I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON IN HIS MIND.
THAT'S RIGHT...
IT'S TRUE ...
I WAS LIVING WITH KAZEMICHI...
EVERYONE EXPECTED ME TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HIM THAN ANYONE ELSE.

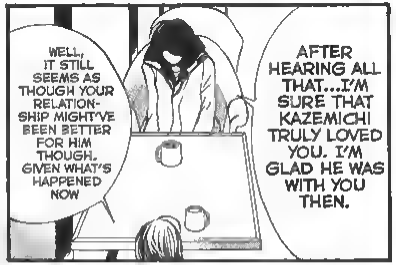
GUESS I'M NOT MUCH OF A GIRLFRIEND.
HERE'S A RANDOM THOUGHT...
HEY, JURI ...
I TOOK FOR GRANTED THAT I WAS THE CLOSEST TO HIS HEART.
I WAS ALWAYS SO WRAPPED UP IN WORK THAT I NEVER MADE THE EFFORT.
I FIGURED JUST BEING NEAR HIM WAS ENOUGH.

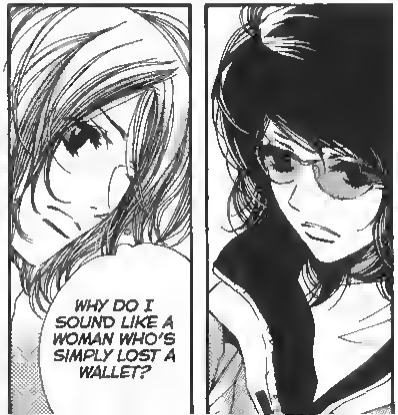
WHEN I WAS 17, I WAS ATTACKED BY A DRUNKEN GUEST AT THE RESORT. A FEW, ACTUALLY, AND I WENT INTO A KIND OF SHOCK. I COULDN'T SPEAK AND I STAYED LOCKED UP IN MY ROOM.
MY FATHER ASKED KAZEMICHI TO HELP ME.

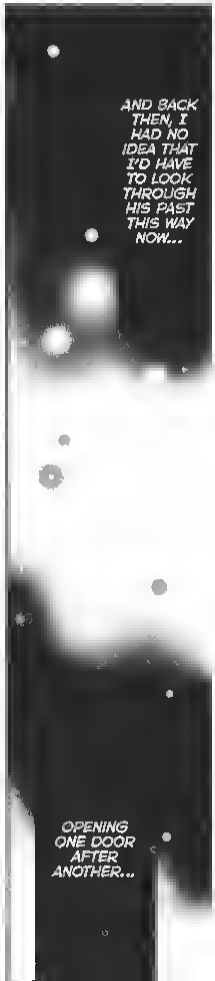
SO WHENEVER KAZEMICHI WAS AROUND, HE'D CARRY MY SKIS OR SNOWBOARD FOR ME.
HE WAS TRULY KIND TO ME.
HE EVEN TOUCHED ME LIKE A LOVER, BUT...

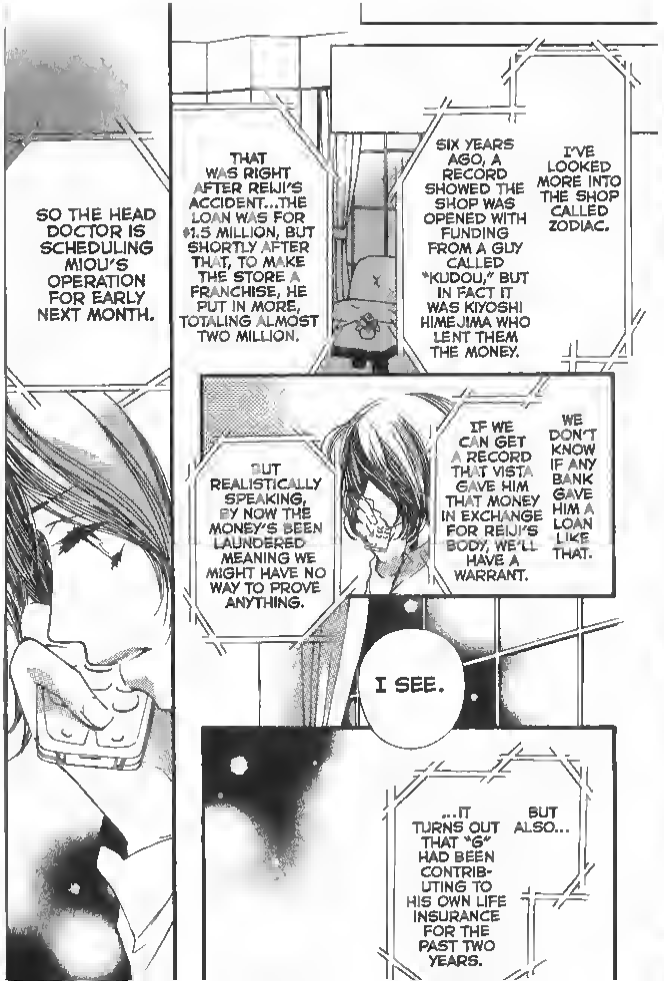
...I KNOW BETTER THAN TO CONFUSE KINDNESS WITH BEING IN LOVE.
I'M NOT THAT NAIVE ANYMORE.


THANKS.


AFTER HEARING ALL THAT...I'M SURE THAT KAZEMICHI TRULY LOVED YOU. I'M GLAD HE WAS WITH YOU THEN.
WELL, IT STILL SEEMS AS THOUGH YOUR RELATIONSHIP MIGHT'VE BEEN BETTER FOR HIM THOUGH. GIVEN WHAT'S HAPPENED NOW


WHY DO I SOUND LIKE A WOMAN WHO'S SIMPLY LOST A WALLET?


AND BACK THEN, I HAD NO IDEA THAT I'D HAVE TO LOOK THROUGH HIS PAST THIS WAY NOW...
OPENING ONE DOOR AFTER ANOTHER...

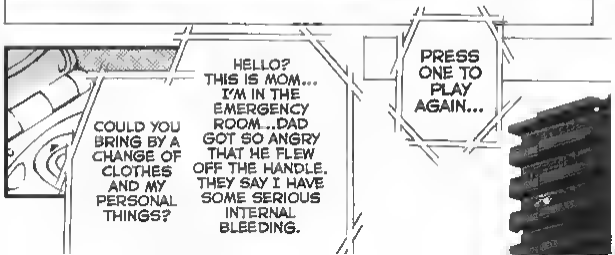

SO THE HEAD DOCTOR IS SCHEDULING MIOU'S OPERATION FOR EARLY NEXT MONTH.
THAT WAS RIGHT AFTER REIJI'S ACCIDENT...THE LOAN WAS FOR ¥1.5 MILLION, BUT SHORTLY AFTER THAT, TO MAKE THE STORE A FRANCHISE, HE PUT IN MORE, TOTALING ALMOST TWO MILLION.
SIX YEARS AGO, A RECORD SHOWED THE SHOP WAS OPENED WITH FUNDING FROM A GUY CALLED "KUDOU," BUT IN FACT IT WAS KIYOSHI HIMEJIMA WHO LENT THEM THE MONEY.
I'VE LOOKED MORE INTO THE SHOP CALLED ZODIAC.
BUT REALISTICALLY SPEAKING, BY NOW THE MONEY'S BEEN LAUNDERED MEANING WE MIGHT HAVE NO WAY TO PROVE ANYTHING.
IF WE CAN GET A RECORD THAT VISTA GAVE HIM THAT MONEY IN EXCHANGE FOR REIJI'S BODY, WE'LL HAVE A WARRANT.
WE DON'T KNOW IF ANY BANK GAVE HIM A LOAN LIKE THAT.
I SEE.
...IT TURNS OUT THAT "G" HAD BEEN CONTRIBUTING TO HIS OWN LIFE INSURANCE FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS.
BUT ALSO...

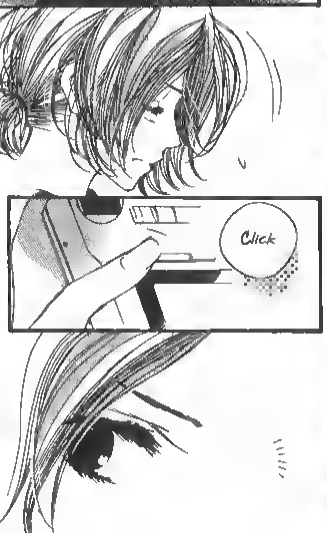
EVERYONE HE LOVED...
...WAS ABUSED SOMEHOW.
DID KAZE-MICHI...
HE SAID HE NEVER WANTED TO SEE HIS MOTHER OR FATHER EVER AGAIN.
BUT I'VE HEARD HE HAD A TERRIBLE RELA-TIONSHIP WITH HIS FATHER.
NOT REALLY.
...EVER TELL YOU ABOUT HIS PAR-ENTS?
AFRAID OF HIM-SELF?
HE SAID HE WAS AFRAID OF WHAT HE MIGHT DO.
BE-CAUSE IF HE EVER DID MEET THEM AGAIN, HE'D PROB-ABLY HAVE TO KILL THEM.
I THINK IT WAS AN ANTIQUE SHOP CALLED ZODIAC. I HEARD HE WAS INVOLVED BECAUSE HE LENT HER MONEY TO START IT.
HIS MOTHER HAD A SHOP IN HARAJUKU THAT SHOULD'VE BEEN HIS, BUT HIS FATHER CHANGED THE OWNERSHIP AND TOOK ¥3,000 FROM THEM EACH MONTH.
YEAH, I'VE HEARD HIS FATHER DID LOTS OF THINGS TO HOLD HIM DOWN, AND HAD METHODS FOR KEEPING HIM AT BAY.

WELL... DAD JUST...
.....

IF THIS DAMAGE IS PERMANENT, I COULD GO BACK TO THAT HOUSE AND END UP COMPLETELY BEORIOOEN... MAYBE EVEN...
I'M SCARED TO SLEEP HERE ALONE.
JURI, STAY WITH ME TONIGHT.
MOM, STOP IT.
PLEASE... JUST GET SOME REST ANO I'LL COME BACK AGAIN LATER.

KIYOSHI HIMEIIMA
THANK GOODNESS.


COULD YOU BRING BY A CHANGE OF CLOTHES AND MY PERSONAL THINGS?
HELLO? THIS IS MOM... I'M IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM..DAD GOT SO ANGRY THAT HE FLEW OFF THE HANDLE. THEY SAY I HAVE SOME SERIOUS INTERNAL BLEEDING.
PRESS ONE TO PLAY AGAIN...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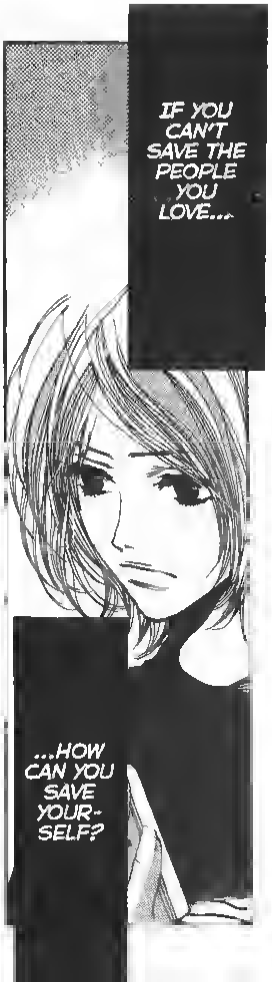
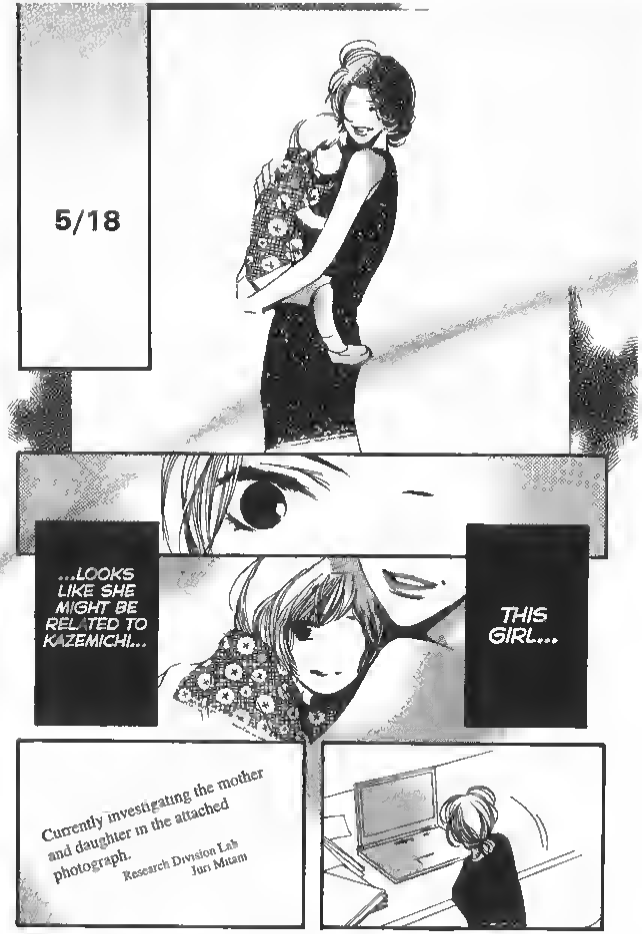

IF YOU CAN'T SAVE THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE...
...HOW CAN YOU SAVE YOUR-SELF?

ONE MORE PERSON WHO GAVE UP OVER-COMING THEIR OWN WEAKNESS.
MY MOTHER ...
GOOD NIGHT.
I BELIEVE EVERYONE CAN BE SAVED FROM THEIR PAIN.
I CHOSE THIS LINE OF WORK SO I COULD HELP MY-SELF AND BECOME SOMEONE WHO SAVES OTHERS.
BUT... I FOUND MYSELF WONDERING IF I REALLY WANTED TO HELP THE PEOPLE WHO CAUSED ME THAT HURT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

THERE'S ONE PLACE LEFT THAT MIGHT HAVE EVIDENCE FOR KAZE-MICHI...
AND SO...
OH, IT'S YOU.
Ding dong
WATARU ONIZ
Ding dong
Ding dong


5/18
...LOOKS LIKE SHE MIGHT BE RELATED TO KAZEMICHI...
THIS GIRL...
Currently investigating the mother and daughter in the attached photograph.
Research Division Lab
Juri Mitani

...THEY WERE HIDING THINGS THEY DIDN'T WANT OUTSIDERS TO KNOW ABOUT.
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING OF KAZEMICHI'S HERE ANY-MORE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THERE WAS A CHANCE THAT IN THIS APARTMENT...
I JUST WANTED TO COME SEE WHERE KAZEMICHI USED TO LIVE

YOU KNOW, UNTIL HE MOVED OUT, KAZEMICHI AND I ALWAYS STUCK TOGETHER AND WE FOUND OUT THAT YOU'RE A DETECTIVE, BUT STILL HE TRUSTED YOU, SO I WANTED TO TRUST YOU...

I WOKE UP AFTER ALL THAT AND FELT REALLY HUNGRY...

BUT IT'S ALL OVER NOW.

I WAS JUST LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO EAT...

FLOCKS IS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE GUYS LIKE KAZEMICHI AND ME CAN EARN A LIVING.

SO IF SOMEONE TRIES TO INVADE MY CASTLE, NO MATTER WHAT I DO TO HURT THEM...MY CONSCIENCE WON'T BOTHER ME ONE BIT.

NO DOUBT, THESE ARE ILLEGAL STIMULANTS.

"FLOCKS" GOT ITS MONEY FROM THIS KIND OF SELLING...?

PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLERS, STIMULANTS AND RELAXANTS... ALL TOGETHER, THIS ONE DRAWER COULD HAVE BEEN WORTH A LOT.

IS THAT WHAT YOU CAME HERE LOOKING FOR?

SO WE'LL HOLD YOU IN CUSTODY JUST LIKE THE POLICE WOULD.
IT'S NO DIFFERENT THAN WHAT YOU'D DO TO US.
UUGHH...
NGH...
THE ONLY DECENT THING MY FATHER EVER TAUGHT ME...
..."SPILL AS MUCH BLOOD AS YOU WANT."

AAGH...
NO! JUST LIKE YOU SAID BE-FORE ...
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS ...
YOU TOLD ME I SHOULD KNOW THE OTHER SIDE OF KAZEMICHI, AND--!!
...TO ANY FOOL WHO THINKS THEY CAN PULL SHIT ON US.
BANG!

NGGH ...
THE MOMENT THEIR PREY BECOMES WEAK ENOUGH...
...THEY'LL SIGNAL TO THE FLOCK.
MMNGH!
SOMEONE NOTICE THIS NOISE, PLEASE!
THEY'RE WATCH-ING.

IF WE LEAVE YOU HERE LIKE THIS, YOU'LL DIE FROM BLOOD LOSS EVENTUALLY.
AND THERE ARE A LOT OF CROWS AROUND HERE.
AND ONCE THEY FIND YOU, THEY'LL CALL THE REST OF THE FLOCK.
THEY'LL SMELL BLOOD, HOWEVER FAR AWAY THEY ARE.

ENOUGH.
IF I WERE GOING TO WHEREVER KAZE-MICHI WAS, THEN...
NGH...
NN.
NGH!
...TANI...
...I WOULD NOT BE AFRAID.
MITANI!
MMGH!

IT'S NIGHTTIME.
EVEN THEY SHOULD BE ASLEEP AFTER DARK.
!

...THAT KAZE-MICHI COMMITED SUICIDE.

IF HE DID, THE INSURANCE CLAIM WOULD BE DENIED AND MIOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HAVE THE SURGERY AT ALL.

THE CLAIM FROM "G"'S INSURANCE WILL COVER HER STAY AT THE EBISU HOSPITAL, AS PART OF THE VISTA GROUP'S HEALTH CARE.

IT'S BEST FOR US TO LEAVE OUT THAT PART ABOUT HOW "G" ARRANGED EVERY-THING.

NEXT MONTH ...

...MIOU WILL GO IN FOR HER OPERATION.

"G" TOLD THE NURSE SPECIFICALLY, "MIOU IS AN ONLY CHILD...

AFTER WHAT BOTH "G" AND HIROE SHIINA DID FOR MIOU...

A NURSE JUST GAVE ME THE DETAILS.

KURO-ZUMI WOULDN'T DARE SAY...

...SO IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO ME, I WANT YOU TO HELP HER HAVE THE BEST FUTURE SHE CAN."

I WAS SO WORRIED WHEN I HEARD.

ANYWAY, DID YOU FIGURE OUT WHO WAS IN THAT PHOTO ON THE CAMERA?

YEAH.

LIKE YOU THOUGHT, IT'S "G"'S REAL MOTHER, HIROE SHIINA, AND HER DAUGHTER, MIOU.

BUT JUST NOW, I GOT WORD FROM THE DISPATCH OFFICE...

THEY'VE CLOSED THIS CASE.

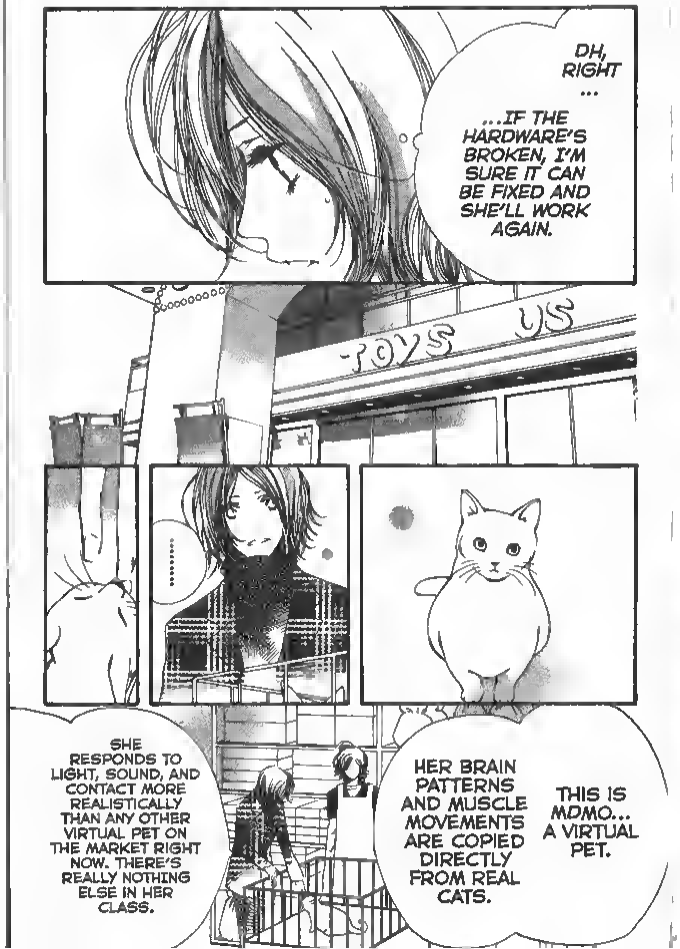
KAZE-MICHI...

NO...

I WAS NOT BEATEN YET... I WAS STILL ALIVE.

EVEN IF MY BODY IS IN BAD SHAPE...

...I'LL KEEP INVESTIG-ATING THIS CASE UNTIL THE VERY END.


OH, RIGHT ...
...IF THE HARDWARE'S BROKEN, I'M SURE IT CAN BE FIXED AND SHE'LL WORK AGAIN.
TOYS US
.....
SHE RESPONDS TO LIGHT, SOUND, AND CONTACT MORE REALISTICALLY THAN ANY OTHER VIRTUAL PET ON THE MARKET RIGHT NOW. THERE'S REALLY NOTHING ELSE IN HER CLASS.
HER BRAIN PATTERNS AND MUSCLE MOVEMENTS ARE COPIED DIRECTLY FROM REAL CATS.
THIS IS MOMO... A VIRTUAL PET.

IF I WERE HIM... FACED WITH UNCOVERING A FRAUD CASE...
CHER-BLANSHKA?
COME ON, GET UP.
WHAT'S WRONG, HUH?
HM?
BUT WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

HERE'S THE CORPORATE ORGANIZATION INFORMATION...

SUBJECTS FROM VARIOUS UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE BEING RECRUITED FOR THE NURSE MACHINE PROJECT.

IT'S SCHEDULED FOR 2010.

VISTA INTER-NATIONAL'S "NURSE" HAS ALREADY BEGUN.

IT'S DEFINITELY POSSIBLE THAT "G" WAS FORCIBLY USED FOR THEIR RESEARCH.

BUT SINCE HE DIED IN AN EXPLOSION, HE LEFT NOTHING WE CAN EVEN CHECK FOR PROOF.

IF WE ONLY HAD SOME PROOF...

...IT'S A NEW MEDICAL TECHNIQUE THEY RECORD NEURO-ELECTRIC PATTERNS FROM CATS AND THE STIMULI THAT RELATE TO IT. THE CHANGES IN BRAIN WAVES RELATE TO THE MUSCLE MOVEMENT, AND THEY CONVERT THAT INTO A DIGITAL FILE THAT CAN BE INSTALLED

AH, YEAH.

TELL ME, HOW DO THEY GET THE BRAIN PATTERNS FROM THE REAL CATS?

BRAIN PATTERNS AND MUSCLE MOVEMENTS COPIED FROM THE REAL THING...

ばっ

WE'RE CURRENTLY DEVELOPING THIS TECHNOLOGY TO CREATE MACHINES THAT INTERFACE NATURALLY WITH HUMANS.

I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT...

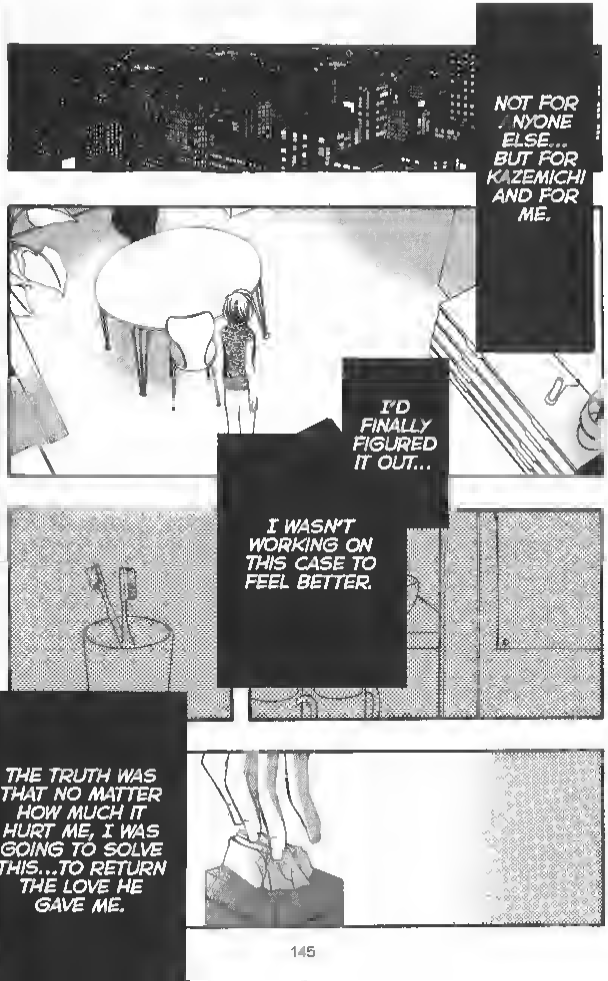
WAS THAT WHY VISTA...

...WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF RESTORING KAZEMICHI AND TAKING CARE OF HIM?

LADY... ARE YOU OKAY?

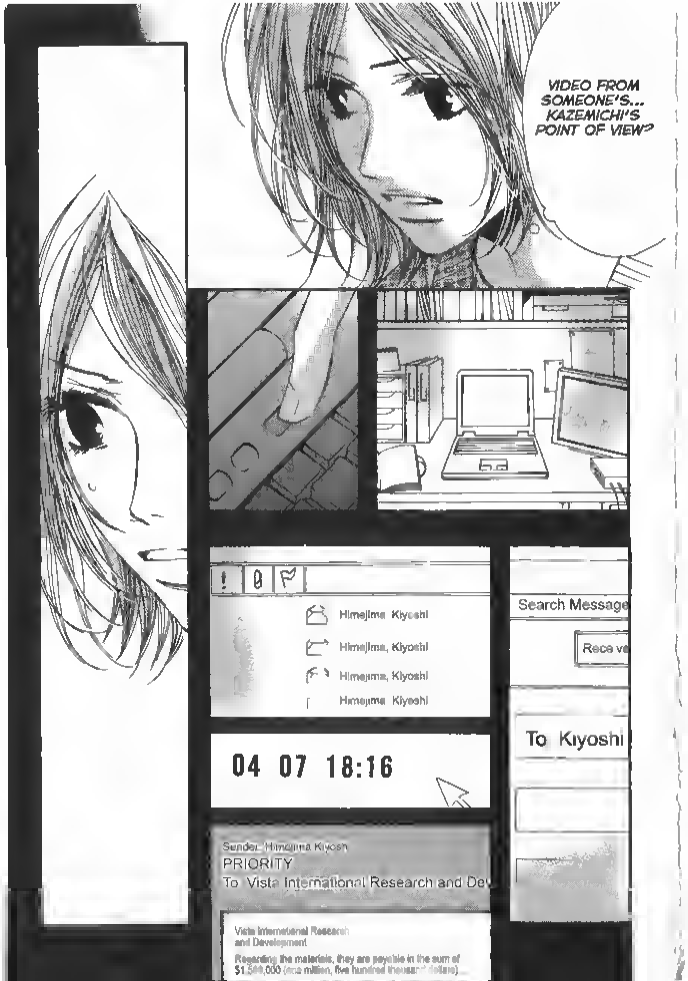
TO STEAL KAZEMICHI'S PATTERNS... FOR...

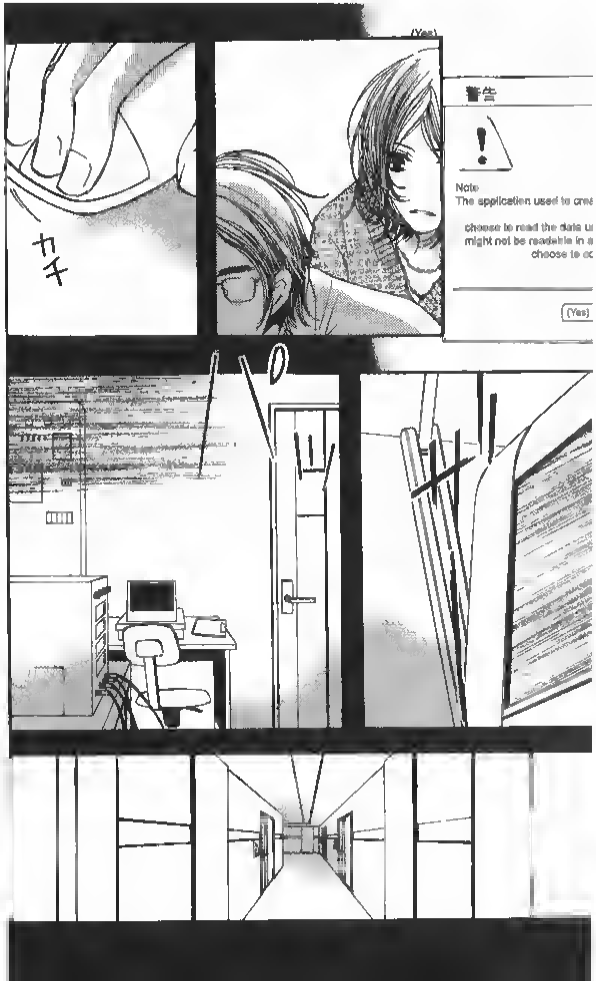
"DAVIDJR" IS PROGRAMMED WITH THE THOUGHT PATTERNS OF A REAL HUMAN, SO...


NOT FOR ANYONE ELSE... BUT FOR KAZEMICHI AND FOR ME.
I'D FINALLY FIGURED IT OUT...
I WASN'T WORKING ON THIS CASE TO FEEL BETTER.
THE TRUTH WAS THAT NO MATTER HOW MUCH IT HURT ME, I WAS GOING TO SOLVE THIS...TO RETURN THE LOVE HE GAVE ME.

I WILL...
...KEEP LOOKING.
EVEN WITHOUT POLICE HELP, AND EVEN IF IT TAKES THE REST OF MY LIFE.
I WILL NOT GIVE UP.

IS THIS THING... PART OF KAZEMICHI?
THIS IS PRETTY NEW TECHNOLOGY, AND IT LOOKS LIKE A LOT OF DATA IS COMPRESSED ONTO IT.
YEAH, I THINK THIS IS DEFINITELY SOME SORT OF MEMORY CHIP.


VIDEO FROM SOMEONE'S... KAZEMICHI'S POINT OF VIEW?
Himejima Kiyoshi
Himejima, Kiyoshi
Himejima, Kiyoshi
Himejima Kiyoshi
Search Message
Rece ve
To Kiyoshi
04 07 18:16
Sender: Himejima Kiyoshi
PRIORITY
To Vista International Research and Dev
Vista International Research and Development
Regarding the materials, they are payable in the sum of
$1,500,000 (one million, five hundred thousand dollars)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警告
Note
The application used to crea
choose to read the data u
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(Yes)

THE E-MAIL WAS FRDM KIYOSHI HIMEJIMA TO VISTA'S CHIEF OF DEVELDP-MENT.

ONCE WE GET A CONFESSION FROM HIME-JIMA, THEN INVESTIGATION WILL TURN TO THE VISTA CORPORATION.

BUT IT'S STILL STRANGE TO ME...

...THAT AS MUCH AS HE HATED HIS FATHER, HE NEVER TOOK THE EVIDENCE HE HAD TO THE POLICE. HE HAD MORE THAN ENOUGH PROOF TO GET HIS FATHER LOCKED AWAY.

DID YOU FIGURE OUT WHY HE UNINSTALLED THE BLACK BOX AND KEPT IT HIMSELF?

I THOUGHT I ALREADY KNEW WHY.

HE DIDN'T WANT THE FACT THAT HE HAD DIED DNCE AND WAS RESURRECTED TO BECDME PUBLIC NEWS.

Vista International Research and Development

Regarding the materials, they are payable in the sum of $1,500,000 (one million five hundred thousand dollars) as requested to be written by our "Company A" in escrow, at which point the deliverable goods will be available for inspection. The subject's will and testament has been verified and will arrive at your office shortly, as it was sent via registered mail yesterday.

Kiyoshi Himejima, April 7, 1998

Vista International Research and Development

Regarding the materials

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Kiyoshi Himejima, April 7, 1998

THE OPERATION WENT WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE, BUT SHE'S STILL SILENT... HASN'T SAID HARDLY ANYTHING.
LOSING BOTH HER BROTHER AND MOTHER IS A BIG SHOCK. I'M SURE IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME FOR HER TO RECOVER FROM EVERYTHING.
BUT ONCE SHE CAN HAVE VISITORS THEN...HM?
...TO NOW START AT OUR HOSPITAL.
THIS ANDROID NURSE IS THE CARETAKER MACHINE "EVE."
SHE'S EQUIPPED WITH MANY FUNCTIONS, SO GIVE CLEAR VERBAL INSTRUCTIONS AND SHE'LL BE A GREAT HELP TO ALL OF US HERE.

HE KEPT THAT AWAY FROM ME, NOT SURE IF I'D ACCEPT HIM IF I KNEW THE TRUTH.
IT WAS ALL MY FAULT...
...FOR NOT SHOWING HIM HOW I REALLY FELT ALL THAT TIME.
大病院

I DON'T KNOW WHY THAT WOULD BE.
THAT'S WHY I HOPED YOU'D SOMEHOW REMEMBER ME.
PART OF HIM LIVES ON INSIDE YOU.
I'M GLAD WE MET. I WILL MOST CERTAINLY REMEMBER YOU AS WELL.
THE "HE" YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT MUST HAVE BEEN SOMEONE VERY SPECIAL TO YOU.

I'M SORRY, I DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE MET.
MY NAME IS JURI MITANI.
DO YOU... KNOW WHO I AM?
I FEEL AS THOUGH SOMEWHERE DEEP IN MY MEMORY, I CAN RECALL YOUR FACE.
AL-THOUGH ...

"JURI... I AM SO HAPPY THAT WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR TWO YEARS."

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO JURI!!

PRESENTED BY
KAZEMICHI HIMEJIMA

"YOU'VE FILLED ME WITH MORE LOVE THAN IN ALL MY OTHER YEARS COMBINED."

THE MOST SPECIAL PERSON I COULD EVER HAVE KNOWN.

ONE THING THAT THIS CASE COULDN'T CHANGE... NO MATTER HOW MANY PEOPLE GET INVOLVED, OR HOW LONG IT TOOK...

Introducing the Eve Project

She'll be a great help to all of

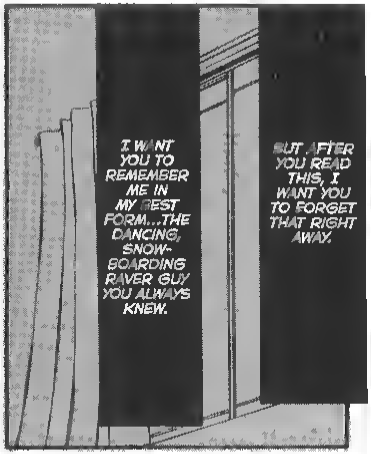
Starting today in our hospital

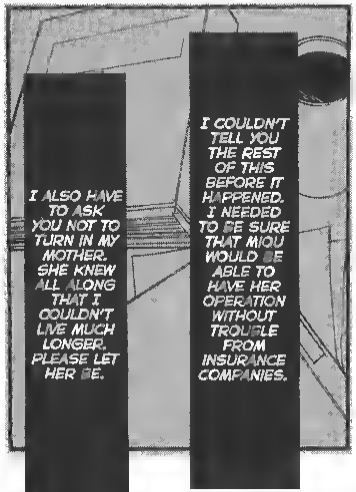
...KAZEMICHI WAS NEVER COMING BACK.

NOTHING I DID TO TRY TO HOLD ON TO HIS SOUL WOULD MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.

♫♪♫~

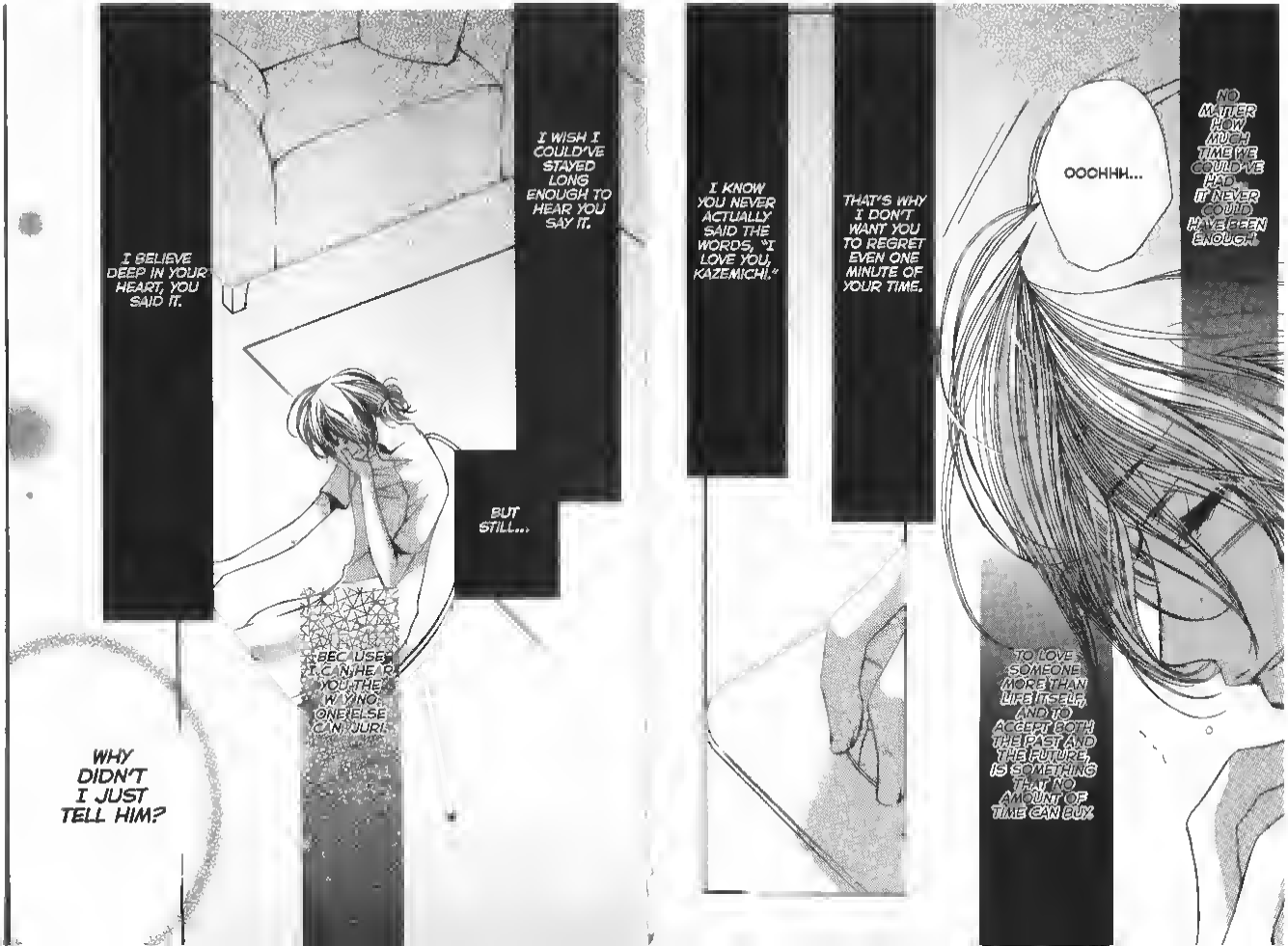
IT JARRED THE PACE-MAKER IN MY ARTIFICIAL HEART.
THE MOISTURE INSIDE MY BODY BUILT UP PRESSURE AFTER THAT, AND THERE WAS PROBABLY AN EXPLOSION.
MY DEATH WAS BASED ON A SIMPLE PRINCIPLE, YOU KNOW.
MY MOTHER DROVE TO MEET ME WITH A GENERATOR FROM A CONSTRUCTION SITE, AND I RAN A CURRENT THROUGH MY BODY AT A SPECIFIC FREQUENCY
I KNOW WHAT KIND OF RESEARCH YOU ACTUALLY DO. BUT I FIGURED IF YOU WANTED TO HIDE IT, I DIDN'T NEED TO BRING IT UP EITHER
BUT I DO HAVE ONE THING TO ASK OF YOU NOW.
SO I WANT TO LEAVE YOU WITH A FEELING OF LOVE BEFORE I GO.
I WISH I HAD MORE TIME TO BE A BIG BROTHER FOR MIOU. BUT MY TIME IS ALMOST UP.
I HAVE AN ARTIFICIAL HEART THAT WAS ONLY BUILT TO LAST SIX YEARS. IT COULD GIVE MY DAY NOW.
I SPENT TOO MUCH TIME HATING VISTA AND MY FATHER.
BUT I TRULY LOVE YOU.





IF YOU HAD TO FIND ANY PART OF MY BODY LYING AROUND, I KNOW THAT WOULD'VE BEEN PAINFUL FOR YOU.

WHICH WAS EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED.

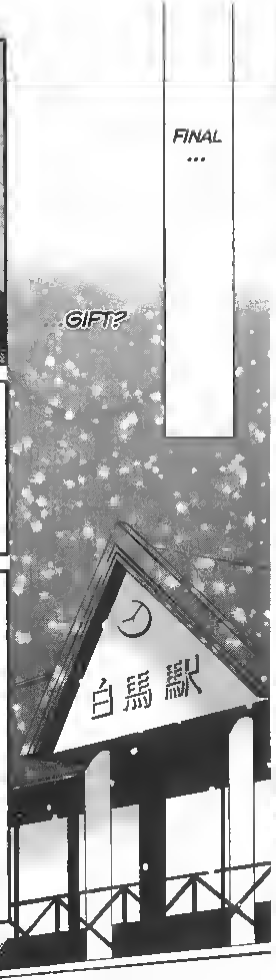

I BELIEVE DEEP IN YOUR HEART, YOU SAID IT.
I WISH I COULD'VE STAYED LONG ENOUGH TO HEAR YOU SAY IT.
BUT STILL...
BECAUSE I CAN HEAR YOU THE WAY NO ONE ELSE CAN, JURI.
WHY DIDN'T I JUST TELL HIM?
I KNOW YOU NEVER ACTUALLY SAID THE WORDS, "I LOVE YOU, KAZEMICHI."
THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT YOU TO REGRET EVEN ONE MINUTE OF YOUR TIME.
OOOHHH...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME WE COULD'VE HAD, IT NEVER COULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH.
TO LOVE SOMEONE MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF, AND TO ACCEPT BOTH THE PAST AND THE FUTURE, IS SOMETHING THAT NO AMOUNT OF TIME CAN BUY.

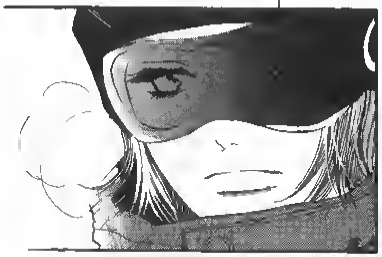
SO THEN, WHEN SOMEONE TRULY DID LOVE ME, I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO SAY...
KAZEMICHI...
EVEN THOUGH I LOVED YOU WITH ALL OF MY BODY AND SOUL.
BECAUSE I HATED MY FATHER FOR BEATING ME AND STILL SAYING "I LOVE YOU."
I DIDN'T WANT TO SAY THE WORDS.. THEY ALWAYS SEEMED CHEAP AND POINTLESS...

On the anniversary of the day we met, I want to give you something to remember me by
Go to Hakuba and ride the ski lift up as far as you can go

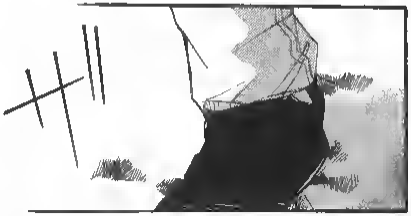
There, you'll find my final gift to you.

Love, Kazemichi

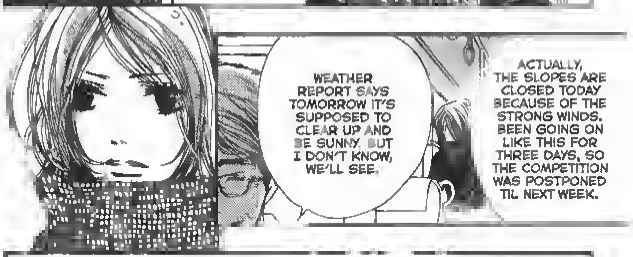


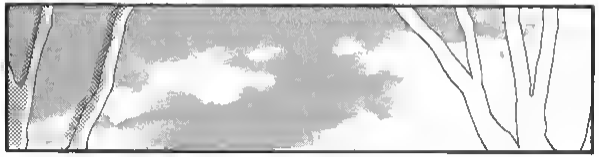


I COULD FEEL SOME-THING...



SOME-THING TOLD ME... SOME-ONE WAS NEARBY.



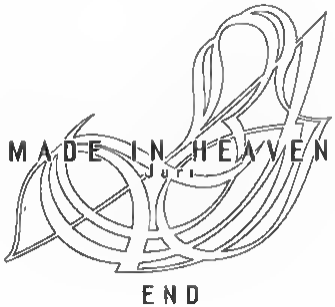


WE NEVER COULD HAVE HAD ENOUGH TIME.
NO...

...I HAD SOMETHING I WANTED TO GIVE TO YOU, TOO.
I LOVE YOU.

WHEN YOU LEFT, IT HURT MY HEART MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE I COULD HAVE IMAGINED. BUT..
TO ME AND MIOU...
KAZE-MICHI...
...YOUR LOVE WAS STRONGER THAN THE PAST OR THE FUTURE.

I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU.


MADE IN HEAVEN
END

TOKYOPOP®

Manga
Drama/Romance
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UK £6.99

When Juri met Kazemichi, she felt like she'd met a kindred soul. But little did she know that he used to be Reiji, a boy nearly killed in a terrible car accident, but pieced back together with prosthetics and covered in unfeeling, artificial skin. She also didn't know that his parts were wearing down, or that he was about to die...again

When Kazemichi's body is found in the wreckage of a mysterious explosion, Juri begins to unravel the dark secrets of his past: his mother, the organization that rebuilt him...and the man who gave him the name Kazemichi.

There are two sides to every story. Look for *Made in Heaven: Kazemichi* also available from TOKYOPOP.

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